



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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Ruturaj takes over from Dhoni as CSK captain

CHENNAI: In his 15th year with Chennai Super Kings, M.S. Dhoni (left) will feature just as a player in the upcoming edition of the Indian Premier League, which begins at the MA Chidambaram Stadium here on Friday. Ruturaj Gaikwad (right), who has been with the franchise since 2019, will take over the mantle from Dhoni as CSK skipper | ASHWIN PRASATH

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POLL CODE VIOLATION

BJP's Shobha, Surya booked for hate speech

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

UNION Minister Shobha Karandlaje and Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya have been booked for hate speech.

Cases have been registered against these BJP leaders by Cottonpet and Halasuru Gate police, respectively, following complaints from election officials.

Leaders of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) had sought action against Karandlaje for alleging that a person from Tamil Nadu is behind the bomb blast in Bengaluru on March 1. However, Karandlaje, who is contesting as a BJP candidate from Bengaluru North Lok Sabha constituency, retracted her statement and apologised for the same.

On Wednesday, the Election Commission directed the Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka to act on the DMK leaders' complaint against Karandlaje. In their complaint, the DMK leaders accused the union minister of violating the Model Code of Conduct by making such a statement.

On Thursday, Cottonpet police booked her under Sections 123 (3A), 123 (3), and 125 -- which deal with promoting enmity between classes on grounds of religion, race, caste, and community in connection with election -- of the Representation of the People Act.

Halasuru Gate police booked Surya for his remarks during the protest against the assault on a shopkeeper for reportedly playing 'Hanuman chalisa' during 'azaan' at Nagarthpet in the city on March 17.

On March 18, Surya posted on the X platform, "A Hindu shopkeeper who was playing bhajans at his shop was assaulted by anti-social elements saying bhajans aren't allowed during the time of 'azaan'."

CONTINUED ON: P4

BJP funds came via Qwik, Future & big corporates

Bond list with alphanumeric numbers released

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi



BIG DONATIONS

From Future Gaming, TMC got ₹540 cr; DMK ₹509 cr; YSR Cong ₹154 cr; BJP ₹104 cr; Cong ₹50 cr

From Qwik Supply, BJP got ₹395 cr; Sena+NCP ₹35 cr

Keventer gave bonds worth ₹383 cr to BJP

Vedanta gave donations to BJP, Cong, BJD and TMC

Bharti Airtel donated to BJP, RJD, SAD, Cong, JD (U)

Muthoot donated to BJP and NCP

Bajaj group donations went to BJP, AAP

Apollo Tyres bonds went to Cong

Lakshmi Niwas Mittal donated to BJP

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw donated to BJP, TMC, Cong

Rungta Sons Pvt Ltd donated to Cong, BJP, TMC, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha

Torrent pharma donated to BJP, AAP, Cong

Natco Pharma gave bonds to BJP, TDP, TMC and BRS

THE Trinamool Congress (TMC) was the biggest beneficiary of the electoral bonds donated by lottery king Santiago Martin's Future Gaming & Hotel Services as it received ₹540 crore, followed by the DMK at ₹509 crore, YSR Congress ₹154 crore, the BJP ₹104 crore, and Congress at ₹50 crore, initial analysis of the full data uploaded by the Election Commission indicated. At ₹1,368 crore, Martin was the largest donor of electoral bonds to political parties.

Qwik Supply Chain Private Limited, which is considered to have links with the Reliance Group, donated ₹395 crore to the BJP, besides contributing ₹35 crore to the Shiv Sena and the NCP put together.

Hyderabad-based infrastructure firm Megha Engineering donated over ₹500 crore to the saffron party. Western Power, a subsidiary of Megha Engineering, also donated ₹80 crore to the BJP. Besides, the group gave ₹195 crore to the BRS and ₹85 crore to the DMK. Megha spent ₹966 crore on electoral bonds, making it the second highest donor to political parties.

The next big donation to the BJP came from Kolkata-based Keventer Food Park Infra and its associate firms Madanlal Ltd and MKJ Enterprise, at ₹383 crore.

Bharti Airtel with ₹132 crore and Vedanta at ₹128 crore were the other corporates that donated liberally to the ruling party.

The new data includes alphanumeric numbers that can help match the bond buyers with the parties that redeemed the bonds.

The ECI released two sets of data — 552 pages of details of redemption by political parties and 386 pages of donor details — cover electoral bonds purchased and redeemed from April 2019 until January 2024. "In compliance with the Supreme Court's directions, SBI has provided data pertaining to electoral bonds to ECI today i.e. March 21. The ECI has uploaded it on its website as received from SBI on an 'as is where is basis'," it said.

KEJRI ARRESTED

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ New Delhi



Delhi Police personnel removing an Aam Aadmi Party worker protesting against the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal | PRAVEEN NEGI

CBI may look into AAP govt's new liquor policy

TO draft a similar policy for Punjab, Kejriwal visited the state at Punjab's residence was at Delhi's residence. He was seen with several Aam Aadmi Party workers, including Punjab's state secretary, in a meeting at the party's office in Delhi. The meeting was held on Thursday night. The meeting was held at the party's office in Delhi. The meeting was held at the party's office in Delhi.

HOURS after the Delhi High Court refused to grant any interim protection from coercive action to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Enforcement Directorate on Thursday night arrested him in connection with a money laundering case linked to the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy.

This paper was the first to break the story on June 22, 2022 that federal investigative agencies were looking into the Delhi excise policy scam.

The ED will produce Kejriwal before a Delhi court on Friday and seek his custody for interrogation.

The arrest came amid high drama and protests by Aam Aadmi Party workers, who thronged the CM's official residence shouting slogans against the ED. Besides Delhi

Police personnel, Rapid Action Force and CRPF teams were deployed around the CM's residence during the operation.

Kejriwal had skipped nine summons by the probe agency, claiming the notices were illegal and politically motivated.

AAP leader Atishi said Kejriwal will not resign as CM and will run the city government from jail, if need be. She said the party's legal team has moved the Supreme Court seeking an urgent hearing. The apex court is likely take up the matter on Friday.

The case pertains to alleged corruption and money laundering in formulating and executing the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22, which was later scrapped. The ED alleges the accused were in touch with Kejriwal for tweaking the excise policy in such a way to bring undue benefits to them. In return, they paid kickbacks to the AAP, it was alleged.

Prominent AAP leaders like Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh are already in jail in connection with the scam.

Law student kills self by jumping before Metro train at Attiguppe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A 19-year-old law college student, Dhruv Thakkar, died by suicide after jumping onto the tracks of the Attiguppe Metro station on the Purple Line before an approaching train on Thursday afternoon. Metro services on the line were disrupted for two hours.

The incident happened on the tracks adjoining Platform One of the station at 2.10 pm when a train headed towards Whitefield was coming to a halt at Attiguppe station.



Some commuters who were at the platform when the incident occurred said the student jumped onto the tracks where the platform ends and where there was hardly any crowd. As the train was entering the station, he jumped onto the tracks and placed his head on it. At the time the tragedy took place, the security guards were further away on the platform where it was more crowded.

Dhruv, a first-year student at National Law School of India University (NLSIU), was from Mumbai. P2

EXPRESS READ

Won't quit BJP, will cleanse it of graft, casteism: DVS

Bengaluru: Senior BJP leader DV Sadananda Gowda on Thursday clarified that he will not quit the saffron party. "I will continue with the party and cleanse it of corruption, casteism and dynastic politics," he told reporters | P4

Schneider Electric to invest Rs 3.2 K cr in India

Bengaluru: French multinational Schneider Electric, which specialises in digital automation and energy management, has committed to invest Rs 3,200 crore in India by 2026 in a bid to expand its presence | P12

6 ministers' kin among 17 in Cong 2nd list

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Congress released its second list of 17 candidates for Lok Sabha elections from Karnataka on Thursday evening. As expected, the party selected AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge's son-in-law Radhakrishna Doddamani for Kalaburagi constituency. Kharge, a Rajya Sabha member, had indicated that he would not contest the LS elections given his busy campaign schedule. Kharge was defeated in the 2019 LS elections in Kalaburagi constituency.

In Kodagu-Mysuru constituency, KPCC spokesman M Laxamana, a Vokkaliga, will face Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, the scion of the royal family. Ministers' kin, who have been chosen, are Ramalinga Reddy's daughter Soumya Reddy for Bengaluru South, Laxmi Hebbalkar's son Mrinal Hebbalkar for Belagavi, Satish Jarkiholi's daughter Priyanka Jarkiholi for Chikkodi, Shivnanda Patil's daughter Samyukta Patil for Bagalkot, Es-hwar Khandre's son Sagar Khandre



Jayaprakash Hegde



Prof Rajeev Gowda



Soumya Reddy



Priyanka Jarkiholi

for Bidar and SS Mallikarjun's wife Prabha Mallikarjun for Davanagere. Sources said ministers, who have been asked to contest the LS elections, managed to get their kin selected as candidates, promising that they would get them elected. The party is likely to face a revolt in some constituencies.

CONTINUED ON: P4

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The spot where 19-year-old law college student Dhruv Thakkar jumped before a Metro train on Thursday

DHRUV SPOKE TO PARENTS SECONDS BEFORE JUMPING

He shared live location with his parents via WhatsApp before taking extreme step

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

“DHRUV Jatin Thakkar, 19, who jumped in front of an approaching Metro train at Attiguppe station, often used to feel that his life was meaningless. He had shared his live location with his parents seconds before taking the extreme step,” a senior police officer said, adding that it was planned.

“Dhruv, a first-year BA LLB student of National Law School of India University, was under medication and attending counselling sessions,” a police officer said.

Dhruv’s family was aware of his treatment for extreme depression, he added.

The senior officer said Dhruv, who was residing in the college hostel at Nagarabhavi, used to frequently tell his college friends about his suicidal thoughts. Before taking the extreme step, Dhruv, who was speaking with his parents over the phone, told them that life seemed meaningless to him. Hearing this, his parents suggested that he go to Cubbon Park and spend some time there. Shortly after ending the call, Dhruv shared his live location

with his parents via WhatsApp and then took the extreme step.

Unable to reach Dhruv on phone, his parents called his friend and requested him to check their son’s whereabouts. However, they were soon informed about his death.

In a statement, NLSIU vice-chancellor Sudhir Krishnaswamy said, “The university is deeply shocked and saddened by the sudden and unexpected demise of one of our students. As a mark of respect, the university will suspend classes for the remainder of the week.”

“Dhruv was a warm and compassionate person, and a bright and diligent student, well-liked by his peers and faculty. The NLS community stands in solidarity with his grieving family and friends in this period of deep sadness. The university staff are working closely with the authorities and extending all support to his family members. We request all members of the community to respect the privacy of the family at this time,” Krishnaswamy said.

Chandra Layout police have registered a case of unnatural death.



Crowd outside the Attiguppe station after Metro operations on the Purple Line were suspended for two hours following the student’s suicide | PICS: NAGARAJA GADKAL

The university is deeply shocked by the sudden demise of one of our students. As a mark of respect, the university will suspend classes for the remainder of the week — Sudhir Krishnaswamy, NLSIU vice-chancellor

‘Platform screen doors can avert such incidents’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

DEPUTY Commissioner of Police (West), S Girish, told TNIE, “The student jumped on to the tracks and placed his head on the rail with an intention to commit suicide. We got to know from co-students that he was mentally disturbed. Investigations are on.” Preliminary probe has revealed that Dhruv, who was living in the hostel within NLSIU premises in Nagarabhavi, was on call with his parents in Mumbai just before taking the extreme step. He said to have informed them that he was nurturing suicidal thoughts as he found life to be meaningless. He even shared his live location on WhatsApp with his parents after ending the call and before jumping on to the tracks.

Police have registered a case of unnatural death. The body was sent to Victoria Hospital later for post-mortem.

Asked about measures to avert similar incidents in future, AS Shankar, Executive Director, Operations and Maintenance, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited, said, “Platform screen doors is the solution. We have barricaded platforms at Kempegowda Metro station to avert such incidents.”

Chief Public Relations Officer, BMRL, BL Yashawanth Chavan, said, “Operations between Magadi Road and Chalahatta stations were stopped. Trains ran only between Magadi Road and Whitefield.”

Services on the entire Purple Line were restored at 4.10 pm, after a two-hour disruption.

This is the third incident in the last three months of people jumping on to the Metro tracks and the first fatality. On January 1, a woman jumped onto the tracks at Indiranagar Metro station to retrieve her mobile (no train was running at that time). Twenty-two-year-old Saron tried to end his life on January 5 by jumping in front of a train at Jalahalli Metro station on the Green Line. He suffered critical injuries.

With conservation, city can be water surplus by July 2026: BWSSB chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

BWSSB BATS FOR TREATED WATER FOR HOTELS, RESTAURANTS

ANNOUNCING a three-pronged strategy for water conservation, utilization of treated water and groundwater replenishment, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board Chairman Ram Prasat Manohar said it will ensure that Bengaluru will be a ‘Water Surplus’ city by July 2026.

He told reporters on Thursday that BWSSB has launched an initiative focusing on three key schemes like water conservation, utilization of treated water and rainwater recharge, to address the water challenge in Bengaluru.

“With these initiatives, we aim to make Bengaluru water self-sufficient by July 1, 2026,” said Manohar. “A comprehensive campaign will be launched

to raise public awareness about water conservation and its benefits.” He said the board will promote the judicious use of clean water sourced from the Cauvery river and tubewells, and urged the public to avoid wasteful practices such as using potable water for non-

essential purposes like washing vehicles. The chairman noted that the Board had issued several directives advocating the use of aerators and flow controls, and encouraging minimal water consumption.

He said BWSSB has directed bulk users to gradually reduce water consumption by 20 per

cent to mitigate the impact of groundwater depletion. “Considering that 40 per cent of the city’s water demand is met by tubewells, BWSSB actively replenished more than 14 lakes with 1300 MLD of water. Our focus remains further lake restoration. We are also prioritizing rainwater recharge through dormant tubewells. It will soon be mandatory to construct two recharge percolation pits for every new tubewell drilled, to ensure groundwater replenishment matches consumption,” he said.

While guidelines have been issued to deter water misuse, reports indicate that some individuals and organizations persist in wasteful practices. To crack the whip against such violators, BWSSB will commence a penalty campaign next week, he stated.



Election officials at a checkpoint made of metal sheets in Bengaluru | VINOD KUMAR T

No amenities, poll officials left in lurch at checkpoints

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

THE rising mercury levels have become a cause for concern among officials drafted for election duty. For the officials have been left to fend for themselves without any basic amenities at the temporary checkpoints. In most parts of the city, the officials are forced to sit inside the “sheds” made of metal sheets.

In their complaints to booth level officers (BLOs) and returning officers (RO), the officials, who reported for work on Monday, stated that it is too hot for them to sit inside the “sheds” which have no basic facilities. With no satisfactory replies, some officials have started sending messages to their higher-ups stating that they would stop working from the “sheds” if steps are not taken to provide them basic facilities.

Many such checkpoints in the city are empty now. Unable to bear the heat inside the “sheds”, many officials are seen sitting on the footpaths or under commercial establishments during duty.

“There are no toilets and vehicular pollution is very high.

Tents were erected for us last time. But now, we have been forced to sit inside the sheds made of tin sheets. The summer is scorching and the heat inside the sheds is unbearable. We have informed this to the ROs. If steps are not taken to provide us facilities, we will not come for work,” said an official from Bengaluru north constituency. Another official said, “There is no proper lighting facility at the checkpoints at night. We manage with the street lights or the headlights of vehicles. We are forced to use torches and mobile phones. CCTV cameras have been installed, but they don’t work.”

An official at the SST checkpoint in Bengaluru South constituency said, “It is very hot inside. We have been given only tables and chairs. There is no drinking water. We don’t even have electricity points to charge our mobile phones. Our pleas for basic facilities have gone in vain.”

Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Kumar Meena said it is the duty of election officers to ensure basic facilities to officials on poll duty. All facilities will be provided to the officials at the earliest, he added.

EXPRESS READ

BCU V-C to share research expertise in UK

The UK-based University of Wolverhampton has invited Bengaluru City University Vice-Chancellor Lingaraja Gandhi as a distinguished visiting research scholar to share his expertise and knowledge on the ongoing project — Sustainable Smart Cities — from March 25-29. An MoU was also signed between the two universities to collaborate in academic and research activities. As part of this collaborative project, Gandhi has co-authored three research articles which have been published in high-impact peer-reviewed journals. The VC will now share his expertise and discuss setting up a Virtual Joint Research and Innovation Centre at BCU. ENS

IIBS celebrates 16th Founder’s Day

Bengaluru: In the past 16 years of its founding, Bengaluru-based International Institute of Business Study (IIBS) has achieved significant milestones, including bagging the NAAC ‘A’ grading and 2(f) and 12(B) UGC status. “For any institute to be successful in India, it is important that we give equal opportunity to all citizens. At IIBS, we make sure the student gender ratio is 50:50,” said Dr Jay Prakash, chairman, IIBS, Bengaluru, during the 16th Founder’s Day celebration of the institute on Thursday. The chairman announced the institute’s plans to achieve university status by 2026. IIBS principal Dr Jaggaiah Tripuraneni said, “The year 2023 has been a remarkable one for the institute. In March, we received recognition from the University Grant Commission (UGC). In September, the institute was granted NAAC ‘A’ grade.” ENS



Bank of Maharashtra holds seminar on Hindi

Bengaluru The Bank of Maharashtra held an all-India Hindi seminar on ‘Future Banking’ for all banks, financial institutions and insurance companies across the country in New Delhi on March 20. Anshuli Arya, Secretary, Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, who was the chief guest, said, “Banks and financial institutions are the backbone of the economy of the country. Banks are also implementing government schemes through banking services.” Arya said use of Hindi and regional languages in banking is very important in the present scenario and customers from remote areas will also benefit from this. ENS

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

22nd March: My planet of the day is Venus, the peace-bringer. Friday is traditionally a day for resolving conflicts - and has been for many centuries. We all have tensions in our lives, sometimes with other people, but often within ourselves. Usually, it’s important to find a compromise, but always it’s necessary to talk to people with whom we disagree.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)

There is bound to be an almighty row over finances, although if you’re lucky, it will be delayed until next week by which time you’ll have had a chance to put matters right. Overspending and unrealistic ambitions may be to blame but, then, unless you think big, you’ll never get anywhere.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)

It’s good to stick to your principles but, as you know, you can be a little too obstinate. If recent events haven’t taught you the value of flexibility and compromise, no thing will. At home, go for total change, just in case you had any doubts. The best advice comes from those in the know, so ask!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You may still be adjusting to the fact that, after a number of years, you are no longer the centre of attention. In many ways this change reflects a shift in your self-image rather than any real alteration in your circumstances. That will make it much easier to cope with.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Your famous Cancerian reserve stems not so much from a lack of feeling as from a failure to express those very considerable emotions that inhibit your unconscious. Try to be more direct in future. Because, if you’re not, other people will be! That’s for sure.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)

Venus, Mercury and Neptune, those three sensual planets, are still occupying significant positions. With any luck, the pressure and uncertainty which they have brought into your life should now be in their final stages. And hopefully you should soon feel fitter.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

The Sun is decisively asserting its relationship to Mercury, your ruling planet, but in many respects the heat may still be on. In particular, take into account just how desperate an acquaintance or business partner is to hear from you: sit down and listen!

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

The week may be bedewing to a close but there are indications of a last-minute panic at work, prompted by events for which you may or may not be responsible. In any event, you’ll be required to deal with the consequences in your usual inimitable, charming style.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Often, it’s surprisingly difficult to cope with good fortune, if only because of the inevitable adjustments to a new routine which must follow. Don’t let such considerations blind you to your current opportunities, or to an offer made by a close relation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)

It cannot be stressed too highly that Mercury, situated as it is in a realistic sector of your solar chart, is providing you with protection and guarantees that you’d be a fool to ignore. All areas of your life may benefit. And I honestly believe that they will.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)

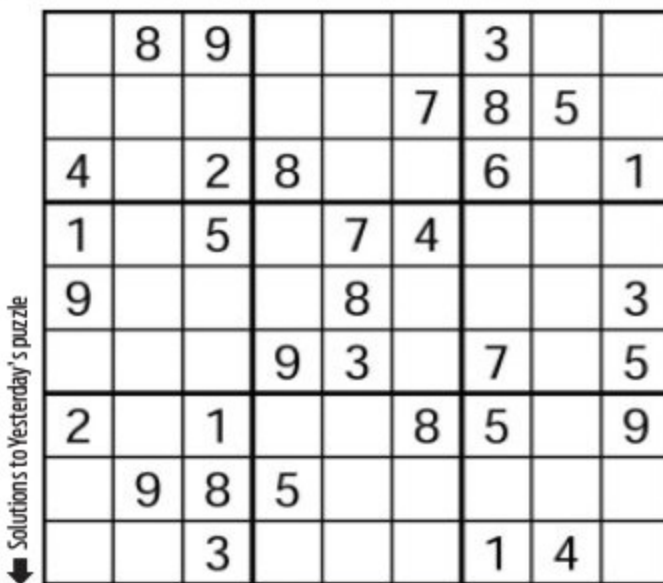
Your current planetary patterns are bound to exacerbate certain irritations, yet it’s at such times that you are driven to implement improvements in your circumstances and relationships that would otherwise inevitably be delayed indefinitely.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

After many ups and downs, you may now look forward to a period in which you’ll be able to appreciate past achievements in an atmosphere of calm rather than one of strife and antagonism. On the other hand, if you suspect that anything new is probably better than the life you’re leading behind, you’ll get on so much better.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)

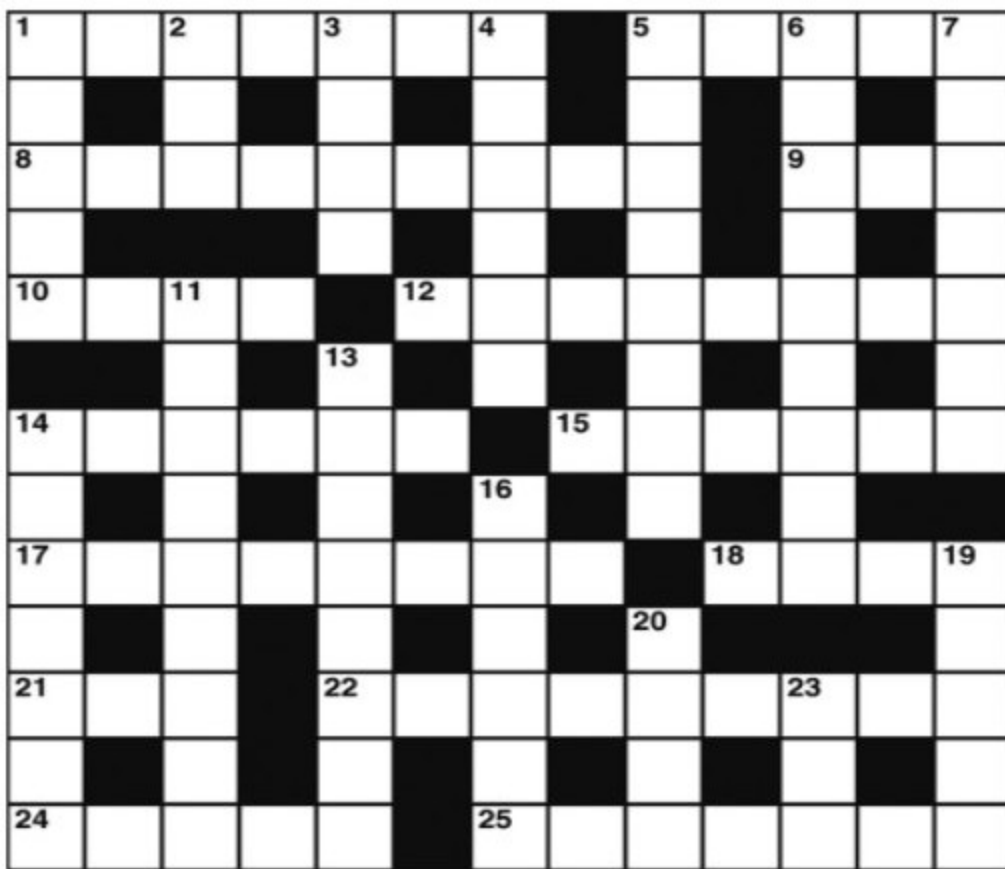
You can afford to be pleased with all the prizes and rewards you’ve won in the past and, if you are fair to yourself, you must admit that these are considerable. There’s every reason to rest on your laurels, and none to join in the problems created by partners.



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TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

- Slight scarp in the queue (7)
- Squalid area confronts quiet decline (5)
- Outstanding account showing effect of inflation (9)
- A hanger for little Margaret (3)
- She writes the Spanish and the French (4)
- MP’s excuse for absence is weakened (8)
- The printer draws his capital from it (5,4)
- Shut up! (6)
- Broken helmsay on all occasions (6)
- This way won’t get you anywhere (3-2-3)
- Word used to describe time at school (4)
- Find fault with a pony (3)
- Engaged in current affairs? (2,3,4)
- Speak well of former lover to first lover (5)
- Kind of people who follow the herd (7)

YESTERDAY’S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Exercise, 2 Endings, 3 Commonwealth, 4 Synops, 6 Adieu, 7 Lightable, 8 Court martial, 12 Advocate, 13 Icons, 22 Easy, 23 Deflated.

DOWN

- Thread starts to burn in the flames (5)
- Everything it’s said needed by a cobbler (3)
- Press a curtain material (4)
- Variation in game puzzles people (6)
- Sallying out in a remarkable way (8)
- The printer draws his capital from it (5,4)
- A dirty father’s seen around eastern temples (7)
- 11 I’ll get him prepared for publicity’s glare (9)
- You do what you like with it (4,4)
- The sweet smell of anger? (7)
- Unrestrained desire to get on (6)
- Opacitic heroine mimics (5)
- Met a new side (4)
- Married midweek? (3)

JUMBLE UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app - Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

LRTUB

MPPIR

NCOANN

REVONG

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Print the answer here:

Yesterday’s

Jumbles: DOUBT WHEAT BUNDLE PURSUE

Answer: They booked a 365-day cruise because they wanted to — “SEA” THE WORLD



SOMETIMES JUMBLE WORDPLAY IS SO “STINKY” THAT IT’S ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)



Election officials on Thursday seized Rs 43.78 lakh from various check-posts in the Chitradurga district. According to district election officer and DC T Venkatesh, steps have been taken to ensure that electoral malpractices are prevented

Youth complains of assault; minor girl alleges kidnapping

Wahid says he was assaulted by activists of Bajrang Dal; Minor girl alleges Wahid forcibly took her near Hattikuni dam, molested her

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Yadgir

A FIRST Information Report (FIR) has been registered based on a complaint of assault by a youth of a particular community against alleged activists of Bajrang Dal. Meanwhile, a counter complaint was lodged by the victim girl against the youth with regard to alleged kidnap, molestation, threatening and blackmailing her.

Wahid Ur Reheman Badal, who is studying B.Sc first se-

mester at Don Bosco College of Yadgir has lodged a complaint at Yadgir Town police station on March 19, stating that when he was returning home after taking his hall ticket from the college on March 18, a group of eight people, led by Mallu alias Dali and Tayappa, asked his name and forcibly took away his mobile. The group then took him behind the Jawahar Degree College and abused him, alleging that he was eve-teasing a particular girl and assaulted

him with a belt, plastic pipe, sticks and with their hands, leaving him injured. They wanted to allegedly kill him, but he somehow managed to escape and came home and later went to a hospital, he said. Wahid has named Mallu, Tayappa, Ambarsih, Adarshgowda, Pawankumar, Jambu Solanki, Babu Solanki and Rupesh Koliwad as the accused who assaulted him.

On March 20, a minor girl gave a complaint stating that

Wahid used to tease her since many days, and a few days ago, he took her near Hattikuni Dam forcibly and molested her; and one of his friends video-graphed the incident. He also told her that would marry her; and in his community, there is no bar on marrying a minor girl. After marriage, she could lead a good life.

Some days ago, Wahid started allegedly blackmailing her into obeying him, and threatened that he would upload the video

clipping on social media. "And if I failed to listen to him, he would kill me and my mother. The girl said due to this, she informed the matter to her relative Jambu Solanki," she said.

She further said that Jambu Solanki, her mother, father and some other relatives went to Wahid's house and told his relatives Layak Hussain Badal, Irfan Badal, Tanvir Badal, Mujib Badal, Matin Gori, Gori, Tajmul, Ijaj Badal, Imran Badal, Moulali Badal, Sha-

habaj Badal, Asif, and Khuram Badal that Wahid was harassing the girl and had molested her.

The girl said that Wahid's relatives told her kin that such things were common and nobody could do anything to them.

They threatened her relatives, she said in her complaint. Based on the complaint, the police have registered an FIR against Wahid and his friends and relatives.

'He groped be from behind': Woman shares scary ordeal

ENS @Bengaluru

IN a series of posts on 'X', a woman accused a man of groping her near her residence on Monday night. Through her post, she has shared her frightening encounter and also posted a video showing the man concealing his face. "Last night in #NammaBengaluru a friend of mine dropped me near my house and as I was about to open the gate, this man came and groped me from behind and started running. I called my friend and asked him to stop him before he rode away," the woman said in her first post.

She added that she told her friend, who called the police when they caught him. However, the woman said the man was released as she did not press charges against him. "This man is unfortunately being left out again because I am not going to file an FIR. The laws in our Constitution are more focused on safeguarding such animals and had I injured him significantly in self-defence, I would be charged much more. What a shame, right?" the woman said.

"I am unable to file an FIR because of all the trouble that lies ahead of it. The number of court trials and everything involved would mentally harass me is what the people in my neighbourhood suggested who had come on-site to help me," she further posted. Questioning the safety of women, the victim posted, "It is unfortunate that he is being set free. He wasn't drunk and he is not a child. He knew what he was doing..." The police have asked for further details.

CAG circular stopping deductions from salaries of employees illegal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

IN a judgment that will help co-operative societies and banks, the Karnataka High Court quashed Clause-5 of the circular issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) prohibiting Salary Drawing and Disbursing Officers from deducting amounts due to cooperative banks from the salary of employees even if they get the consent for such deduction.

Justice Anant Ramanath Hegde passed the order while allowing the petition filed by the Accountant General's Office Employees Cooperative Bank Limited questioning Clause-5 of the circular dated October 18, 2019, which says that "no recovery (neither subscription nor any other liability) will be allowed by the drawing and disbursing officers in respect of dues of Co-operative Housing Societies and Co-operative Banks."

The court also quashed the orders issued on January 29



The petitioner has no locus to question the policy decision taken excluding certain classes of cooperative societies and banks from the ambit of Section 34 of the Act

The CAG's counsel

and 30, 2020, and February 6, 2020, under the impugned Clause 5.

Referring to the Karnataka Co-operative Societies Act, 1959, the senior counsel for the petitioner argued that Section 34 of the Act provides an agreement between the borrower and the cooperative bank, which enables the employer of

the borrower to deduct the agreed amount towards repayment of the debt due to the co-operative society. Hence, the CAG has no power to prohibit deductions from the salary of the employees, he argued.

The CAG's counsel defended that the petitioner has no locus to question the policy decision taken excluding certain classes of cooperative societies and banks from the ambit of Section 34 of the Act.

The court noted that once the member of a co-operative society with the prior concurrence of his employer enters into an agreement with a co-operative society, such agreement creates a right in favour of a co-operative society to recover its dues from the salary of an employee which does not exceed 50%, and the employer is bound to deduct such agreed amount from the salary, as contemplated under Section 34 of the Act. Therefore, the impugned Clause-5 is not a policy decision and hence it is per se illegal, the court said.



Justice Anu Sivaraman takes oath as K'taka High Court judge

Justice Anu Sivaraman took oath as judge of Karnataka High Court in a ceremony at Raj Bhavan on Thursday evening. Governor Thawarchand Gehlot administered the oath to Justice Sivaraman. She was transferred from the Kerala High Court on March 18. Chief Justice N V Anjaria and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah greeted Justice Sivaraman.

Food delivery agent misbehaves with woman, arrested

Bengaluru: A 27-year-old online food delivery agent has been arrested for allegedly sexually harassing a woman at her residence. On the evening of March 17, the accused, Akash B from Kalaburagi, delivered food to the 30-year-old complainant at AECS layout in HAL police limits. While handing over the food parcel, he requested the woman to let him use the restroom. Then he asked for a glass of water. When the woman, who was staying alone, was going to the kitchen, Akash allegedly grabbed her hand. The woman screamed and slapped him following which he fled, the police said. The woman immediately notified the food delivery platform, and approached police.

Man nabbed for harassing, extorting woman

Bengaluru: A 28-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly sexually harassing his relative. When her brothers tried to stop him, the accused's family allegedly threatened the victim by using names of gangsters Dawood Ibrahim and Chhota Shakeel. The police said the 26-year-old complainant developed a relationship with the accused, Affan Ahmed, after meeting him at a wedding last year. During their meetings, Affan took photographs of himself and the victim. However, their relationship soured and she began ignoring him. The police stated that in retaliation, he threatened to send their photographs to her family and also extorted Rs 1.26 lakh.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that Union Bank of India, Cantonment Branch at 14/15 K Kamraj Road, Near Commercial Street, Bengaluru-560042 Karnataka, accepted as collateral security by way of Equitable Mortgage the below mentioned immovable properties from the landowners.

(1) M/s New Rain (Bangalore) Paper Agencies Private Limited (Erstwhile M/s Surbhi Tie-up Pvt. Ltd.) (2) M/s New Rain Commodities Private Limited (Erstwhile M/s Gyan Deep Commodities Pvt Ltd.) (3) New Rain Papers Private Limited (Erstwhile M/s Gulshan Tie-Up Pvt Ltd.) for providing financial assistance to the above-mentioned companies.

Persons objecting the mortgaged transaction may lodge their objections with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within 7 days from the date of this publication. Objections received thereafter will not be binding on us.

COMPOSITE SCHEDULE: All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Plot No.1632, at 32nd Cross, Banashankari II Stage (Corporate Division No. 50A), Bangalore, Karnataka. Bounded on the East by: Site No.1631, West by: Road, North by: Road, South by: Site No.1633 and measuring East to West: 110'-0" feet North to South: 60'-0" feet. In all about 6,600 sq. feet.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform and whatsoever it may concern that my client is inform and whatsoever it may concern that my client Sri K. Manjula S/o. Kanyappa, Aged about 59 years, R/at.1241/1, 28th Main, 32nd G Cross, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560041, has intended to purchase the schedule Property from its present owner viz., Smt. Narasamma W/o. Late Narayanaswamy, Munikrishnappa S/o. Narayanaswamy, Ambika D/o. Narayanaswamy, Geeta D/o. Narayanaswamy, Navene Kumar S/o. Narayanaswamy, Rathnamma D/o. Narayanaswamy, Anjanamma D/o. Narayanaswamy, Gowamma W/o. Narayanaswamy, Muniramasamma D/o. Narayanaswamy, Hanumanthamma D/o. Narayanaswamy, Munirathnamamma D/o. Narayanaswamy, Lakshmi S/o. Narayanaswamy, Muniyappa S/o. Narasimhaiah, Narasimhamurthy S/o. Muniyappa, Gayatri @ Gayatramma W/o. Nagaraj, M.Nirmala D/o. Muniyappa, M.Shobha D/o. Muniyappa, M.Sunithra D/o. Muniyappa and V.T.Ramam S/o. Venurayar R/at Neeluri Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

If any third party's Person/s have any manner of right, title, interest, demand, claims, charges or lien over the schedule property they are hear by requested to file the objections to this sale transaction or mortgage of said property to the financial institutions/Bank/third parties and shell informed/said office the same in writing along with the photocopies, related such claims, objections through the RPAD with the under mentioned address within 10 days from the publication of this notice.

If no valid claim/objections are received by the undersigned as aforesaid, my client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction deeming that apart from the aforesaid owner no one else has/have any manner of right or claim or interest whatsoever over the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY All that piece and parcel of agricultural property bearing property bearing S.No.17 measuring 2 acre 35 guntas and including 0-05 guntas karabi, situated at Heolale Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

K.V. MAHENDRA KUMAR, Advocate 1st Floor, Ashby Complex, Above Union Bank, Sulbelle Road, Devanahalli -562 110 Mob:9538276877

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
(OF THE BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA)

TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are Re-invited for the supply of following items.

(1) 78260, (2) 77912, (3) 78030, (4) 78073.

Note: For more details, log on to website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

PRO/AAM(M)/161/2024 GENERAL MANAGER

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Maharashtra State Power Generation Co. Ltd.

TENDER NOTICE : CPA-06-2024

Digitally signed tenders under Two Bid System are invited for the following

Tender / RFx No: SP/T-0201/0324 (RFx No- 3000046442)

Description of tender: Procurement of Air Filter for 4 X 108 MW Units at GTPS, Uran for Year 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Due date & time of submission of Tender Bids: Up to 15.00 Hrs of 26/03/2024

Contact Person: Office of Chief Engineer (CPA), Tel.No.: 022-69853618

For further details visit our website <https://eprocurement.mahagenco.in/> Chief Engineer (CPA)

Canara Bank
A Government of India Undertaking

ARM Branch - II, 2nd Floor, Circle Office, Spencer Towers, No. 86, MG Road, Bengaluru - 560001
Ph No.: 080-25310099, 080-25310181, E-mail: cb6298@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
(Under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)

E-Auction sale notice for sale of Immovable property under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged /charged to the secured creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Canara Bank, ARM Branch II Bangalore-I will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of outstanding dues from below mentioned Borrowers. The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit is mentioned below.

Name of Borrowers and Guarantors	Total Liabilities as per Sale Notice	Description of Immovable Assets	Auction Date & Time	Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit [EMD] Date & Time	1) Incremental Value at Bid 2) A/c No. & IFSC
Ms Y V Shivapriya D/o. Yegnanarayanan Venkatesa, No 311, 6th Cross, Gandhipuram, Whitefield, Bangalore-560 066	Rs. 1,79,37,836 (Rupees One Crore Seventy Nine Lakhs Thirty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty six only) as on 29.02.2024 plus further interest thereon from 01.03.2024 along with expenses, other charges, etc.	All that part and parcel of the immovable residential house property bearing site No.5, Old CMC Khata no 674/100, 101 and 102, BBMP Khata No 196/100, 101, 102/5 ward no.7, situated at Jakkur Layout, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore south Taluk, presently within the limits of BBMP comprising of 20 squares of newly constructed RCC roofed house, vitrified tiles flooring, doors made of jungle wood, windows made of steel and measuring East to West 65 feet and North to South 30 feet, totally measuring 1950 sq ft and Bounded on: East by Private Property West by Road North by Site No 4 South by Site No 6	06.04.2024 Time 12.30 p.m. to 01.00 p.m	Reserve Price: Rs. 92.70 Lakhs EMD: Rs. 9.27 Lakhs before 04.04.2024 up to 3.00 pm.	1) Multiples of Rs. 50,000/- 2) A/c No. 209272434 IFSC: CNRB0006298 Encumbrance (s): Not known to Bank

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Auction / bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website www.indianbankseuctions.com. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
- The property can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer.
- The property will be sold for the price which is more than the Reserve Price and the participating bidders may improve their offer further during auction process.
- EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited by way of DD favouring Authorised officer, Canara Bank, ARM Branch II, Bangalore OR through online (RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer) to credit the account number 209272434, Canara Bank, ARM Branch II, Bangalore RTGS/NEFT CODE CNRB0006298 on or before 04.04.2024 - 3.00 PM.
- Intending bidders shall hold a valid digital signature certificate and e-mail address. For details with regard to digital signature please contact the service provider M/s.Canbank Computer Services Ltd, Bangalore - e-mail: eauction@cscl.co.in in Contact Persons & Numbers: Mr. Pakhare DD/Mr.Ramesh T H - 9480691777 & 8553643144.
- After payment of the EMD amount, the intending bidders should submit a copy of the following documents/details on or before 04.04.2024 - 5.00 PM, to Canara Bank, ARM Branch - II Bangalore by hand.
 - Demand Draft/Pay order towards EMD amount. If paid through RTGS/NEFT Acknowledgement receipt thereof with UTR No.
 - Photocopies of PAN Card, ID Proof and Address proof. However, successful bidder would have to produce these documents in original to the Bank at the time of making payment of balance amount of 25% of bid amount.
 - Bid Form.
- The intending bidders should register their names at portal www.indianbankseuction.com and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E-auction from the service provider, M/S CANBANK COMPUTER SERVICES LTD. e-mail: eauction@cscl.co.in in Contact Persons & Numbers: Mr. Pakhare DD/Mr.Ramesh T H - 9480691777 & 8553643144.
- EMD deposited by the unsuccessful bidder shall be refunded to them. The EMD shall not carry any interest.
- Auction would commence at Reserve Price, as mentioned above. Bidders shall improve their offers in multiples of Rs.50,000/-. The bidder who submits the highest bid (not below the Reserve price) on closure of 'Online' auction shall be declared as successful bidder. Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor.
- The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on declaring him/her as the successful bidder and the balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price within the period stated above, the deposit made by him shall be forfeited by the Authorised Officer without any notice and property shall forthwith be put up for sale again.
- For sale proceeds of Rs.50.00 Lakhs (Rupees Fifty Lakhs) and above, the successful bidder will have to deduct TDS at a rate 1% or as applicable on the sale proceeds and submit the original receipt of TDS certificate to the bank.
- All charges for Conveyance, Stamp Duty/GST/Registration Charges etc. As applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only.
- Authorised Officer reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the e-auction without assigning any reason thereof.
- In case there are bidders who do not have access to the internet but interested in participating in the E-auction, they can approach Canara Bank Circle office, Bengaluru or Canara Bank ARM II Branch, Bengaluru, who as a facilitating centre shall make necessary arrangements.
- Bidder has to make due diligence and physical verification of property with regard to title, extent, area, dues, etc. No claim subsequent to submission of bid shall be entertained by the bank.
- For further details contact Ranjan Kumar, Chief Manager, Canara Bank, ARM Branch - 2 - (080-25310181) e-mail id - cb6298@canarabank.com OR the service provider M/s.Canbank Computer Services Ltd, Bangalore - e-mail: eauction@cscl.co.in in Contact Persons & Numbers: Mr. Pakhare DD/Mr.Ramesh T H - 9480691777 & 8553643144.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION/CAUTION

Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Canara Bank nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder or vendor in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as back-up, power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully. The property will not be sold below the Reserve Price.

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 20.03.2024

Sd/-
Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

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Free 'Safe Driving Training Programme' and Scholarship Award for Drivers' Children from Omega

Leading Employee Transportation company Omega has taken a bold step towards driver welfare and community upliftment by launching a multifaceted programme. This multidimensional initiative includes a unique scholarship programme for the drivers' children.

Training Programme for Safe Driving

The Bengaluru-based employee transport and corporate cab service provider has taken up an innovative plan to enhance road safety by organising a free Training Programme and knowledge-sharing session for cab drivers.

Scholarship Award for Drivers' Children

In addition to the training programme, Omega has introduced a pioneering initiative in the city- Scholarship Award for Drivers' Children. This scholarship is exclusively available to children of cab drivers associated with Omega pursuing higher education.

Continued Support for Driver Welfare

Omega's endeavour for the welfare of its drivers is evident through previous initiatives, such as distribution of free medical kits, uniforms and essential supplies.

Omega ensures its driver-partners are equipped to handle emergencies and maintain safety standards by providing first aid boxes, umbrellas, torches, and other necessities.



Recognition for Excellence

Omega has been recognised as the Most Promising Company for Employee Transportation and Car Rental in Bengaluru at the Nationwide Awards 2023.

Headquartered in Bengaluru, Omega operates nationwide, providing comprehensive transportation solutions tailored to the needs of corporate clients. Services include car hire, car rental service, airport transfers, daily employee transportation, application based office commute, metro shuttle and outstation cab service.

For details, go to www.omegacabs.in

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No.19-1/1, 2nd floor, South End Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice Under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (Herein after called "The Act")

At the request, Bank, has extended credit facility to the below mentioned individuals against secured assets through its Branch as under: The relevant particulars of the property on which you have created security interest by execution of security agreement / documents & creation of mortgage by way of deposit of the title deeds are also furnished hereunder. As the operation and conduct of the financial assistance/credit facilities have become irregular the debt has been classified as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India consequent to the default committed by the borrower in repayment of the principal debt and interest thereon. As the demand notice dated as mentioned below sent by register AD calling upon you, was unserved/ not acknowledged, this notice is now issued.

DEVANAHALLI BRANCH
SI No. .1) Name & Address of the Borrowers: (1) Sri Satish N M s/o Muniyappa, (2) Sri Muniyappa s/o Chikakurugaleppa, Both are Rtg 20, 10 th Ward, Neeluri, Biduru Post, Devanahalli Town, Bangalore Rural, (3) Sri. D C Nischal S/o D M Chikkanna (Guarantor) No 265, Venugopalaswamy Gudi Road, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural
Liability: Rs. 10,40,872/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Forty Thousand Eight Hundred & Seventy Two only) as on 05.02.2024 and interest from 06.02.2024.
NPA Date : 28.08.2019 Demand Notice Date : 27.02.2024
Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the Khatha No. 321/317/298/278, Property Measuring 61*28 Total measuring 1708 Sq.Ft, situated at 3rd Division, Ward No 10, Neeluri, Devanahalli Town, Bangalore Rural, and Boundaries on : East : Own Property, West : Road, North : Own property, South : Bachanna's property.

HENNAGARA BRANCH
SI No. 2) Name & Address of the Borrowers: (1) Sri. Govindappa S/o Narayanaswamy (2) Smt. Sreevidya W/o Suresh K, (3) Suresh K S/o Govindappa, All are residing at Heolaleige (V), Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural-560099. (4) Sri. Nagaraj S/o Subbalah R/at Bommasandra Village, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural-560100.
Liability: Rs.9,93,483/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Ninety Three Thousand Four Hundred & Eighty Three only) as on 03-03-2024 and interest from 04.03.2024.
NPA Date : 03.03.2024 Demand Notice Date : 16.03.2024
Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the Residential Building having GP Khatha No.309/165/3, Sy No.165/3, Property Measuring E-W-33 ft, N-S-33 ft, Totally 1089 sq.ft, situated at Heolaleige Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, and Boundaries on : East : Nagaraj's property, West : Remaining portion of same Property, North : Seenappa's Property, South : Anjanappa's Property.

If you fail to repay the aforesaid sum with interest and incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of this notice, Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section (4) of the Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub section 13 of section 13, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank rights to initiate such other action or legal proceedings as it deem necessary under any other applicable provisions of law.

Date: 21.03.2024 Sd/-Authorised Officer, Karnataka Gramin Bank,
Place: Bangalore Regional Office, Bangalore

Says those facing allegations of graft, promoting nepotism and dynastic politics should have no place in party

Won't quit BJP, will cleanse it, says DVS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

FORMER chief minister and senior BJP leader DV **Sadananda Gowda** on Thursday said the recent developments in the party have hurt him. "I will not quit BJP, but continue with the party and cleanse it of corruption, casteism and dynastic politics," he told reporters.



Indirectly hitting out at BY Vijayendra, BJP state president and son of former CM BS Yediyurappa, Gowda said those who have been given the party's responsibility in the state have become selfish and have restricted it to one family and one caste. "I am hurt, but I am not joining Congress. I will remain with BJP and work towards purifying the party," he added.

People favoured him in the survey and his name topped the list of candidates for the Lok Sabha elections in the state. "Despite this, my name was not announced for Bengaluru North constituency," the former union minister said.

Stating that he will work as a normal party worker henceforth, Gowda said, "I appeal to like-minded people to work for the party's success in the Lok Sabha elections now and later for its purification."

In the last Assembly elec-

Bachegowda quits BJP

Chikkaballapur MP Bachegowda has quit BJP. The 81-year-old leader has sent his resignation letter to BJP state president BY Vijayendra.

tions, people of Karnataka rejected BJP because its government faced allegations of corruption and nepotism. This should not happen again. "We need Modi's BJP. Those facing allegations of corruption, nepotism, casteism and promoting dynastic politics should have no place in the party. I will fight against these developments in the party," he said.

On former deputy CM KS Eshwarappa's remarks against Yediyurappa and Vijayendra, Gowda said that he is against "parivaravaada" (dynastic politics) in BJP.

The decision of the party selecting Union Minister Shobha Kharandlaje for Bengaluru North constituency has upset Gowda. Both the leaders belong to the dominant Vokkaliga community. There was speculation that Gowda may quit BJP and join Congress.

Those who had worked against him and were successful in denying him an opportunity to seek re-election will repent. "In Karnataka, we should work towards making Modi PM again. To achieve this, BJP should become a pro-people's party. State BJP should be free of corruption, nepotism, casteism and family politics. I will work towards achieving this. I am still a humble party worker," he said.

JDS' Marithibbegowda resigns as Council member



Hubballi: Four-time MLC and JDS leader Marithibbegowda resigned as a member of the Legislative Council on Thursday. He submitted his resignation to Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti at the latter's residence in Hubballi. He also said that he would resign from the primary membership of the JDS. Marithibbegowda's tenure as MLC was to end in June this year. He said he would announce his next course of action in a couple of days. "I am not in contact with the JDS' senior leadership for the last four years. They have also not invited me for any important party meetings and conventions," he said after resigning. Marithibbegowda said he had opposed Nikhil Kumaraswamy's candidacy from Mandya in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. He said he had also objected to the choice of candidate for the polls to the South

Graduates' constituency. Marithibbegowda said he is also opposed to the JDS aligning with the BJP for the Lok Sabha elections. "This decision was taken by only members of one family - Deve Gowda, Kumaraswamy, and Revanna. No one else was consulted," he added.

BSY, HDK TO MEET IN HASSAN TO DISCUSS COORDINATION

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

FORMER chief ministers BS Yediyurappa and HD Kumaraswamy are likely to meet in Hassan on March 25 for better coordination among BJP and JDS workers, said former Minister **HD Revanna**. It can be noted that some JDS leaders recently expressed displeasure over their party's alliance with the BJP.

Former minister HD Revanna and his son JDS MP Prajwal Revanna met Yediyurappa and his son, BJP state president BY Vijayendra on Thursday, and sought their support for the JDS in the Lok Sabha polls.

Yediyurappa has assured Prajwal that he will be present in Hassan, and aid in his victory.

Speaking to reporters later, Revanna confirmed that they came to seek Yediyurappa's support and blessings. "Former CM Yediyurappa and former PM HD Deve Gowda have their own strengths. We were here to get Yediyurappa's blessings. He assured that he will come and help us win," he said, adding that they have joined hands to make Narendra Modi the PM again.

Speaking about Kumaraswamy, Revanna said he is stable, and on March 25, he will be

in Hassan for a coordination committee meeting. Revanna has sought Yediyurappa and Vijayendra to be part of the meeting, for which the former



CM has reportedly agreed. Revanna said both BJP and JDS leaders are together working to win all 28 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka. When asked about BJP leader and former MLA from Hassan, Preetham Gowda, helping the Congress candidate to win, Revanna said he is sure that both Yediyurappa and Vijayendra will sort out the issue.

Governor returns Endowment Bill, seeks clarification

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

GOVERNOR **Thaawarchand Gelhot** has returned the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill, 2024, and sought clarification from the state government on the same.

The Bill was sent to the Governor for his ascent. The case related to amendments made to the Karnataka Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Act, 1997, in 2011 and 2012, is pending before the court. The Governor is said to have sought clarification on whether the amendment can be made during the pendency of the case. The Raj Bhavan is also said to have asked the government if it has conceptualised any legislation to encompass other religious bodies similarly to the Bill.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said, "It shows the double standards of the BJP, which has shown its true colours by rejecting this Bill, which helps priests and other staff of small temples."

Responding to a question on the Governor seeking clarification about the Bill,

the DCM said the BJP talks only about big temples, but they also want to help small temples in villages and temple priests.

Shivakumar added that they will get a majority in the Council after June, and get the Bill passed.

In the Bill, the state government has proposed to seek 10 per cent of the gross income of 87 temples with an annual income of over Rs 1 crore and 5 per cent of gross income from 311 temples, with an annual income



of over Rs 10 lakh and proposed to utilise it for the welfare of priests and small temples. The BJP has questioned the state government for taking funds from the temples.

Endowment Minister Ramalinga Reddy said the Governor has not rejected the Bill, but sought clarification if the amendment can be made during the pendency of the case. Clarification has also been sought if other religious bodies can be included in the case of Bababudangiri Datta Peetha and another religious place, where people from two communities' worship. The Governor has only sought two clarifications and nothing more, he said.

Somashekar, Hebbar meet DCM, may back Congress candidates

ENS @Bengaluru

BJP MLAs ST Somashekar, who cross-voted in the recent Rajya Sabha polls, and Shivaram Hebbar, who abstained from voting, met Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar here on Thursday. Both the leaders went against their party's diktat, and were being issued showcause notices for violating

the latter's whip. Accordingly, they held talks on lending support to Congress candidates in the Lok Sabha polls, according to sources. The meeting has its own significance since the ruling Congress is vying for 20 seats, which is important for both Shivakumar and CM Siddaramaiah to retain their positions.

Yashwanthpur MLA So-

mashekar is likely to support the Congress candidate in the Bengaluru North Lok Sabha seat. He also attacked the BJP candidate and Minister of State for Agriculture Shobha Karandlaje for her alleged statement that "people from Tamil Nadu came to Bengaluru and planted bombs". "In the past, no BJP MPs, including DB Chandre Gowda or DV Sadananda Gow-

da, have issued such statements," he claimed. He claimed that he has replied to the BJP's showcause notice of one page with 170 pages of answers by citing certain judgements in high courts and Supreme Court with regard to the cross-voting. Meanwhile, Hebbar is also likely to support the Congress candidate in Uttara Kannada, against the BJP candidate.



BJP legislators Shivaram Hebbar (left) and ST Somashekar

It's Kumaraswamy from Mandya

BENGALURU: Former CM HD Kumaraswamy is expected to file his nomination as Mandya candidate a few days after he returns from Chennai on Sunday. At a party meeting on Thursday, senior JDS leader DC Thammanna, who was chosen as the candidate from Mandya, proposed Kumaraswamy's name, which was swiftly accepted. His son Nikhil had lost from Mandya in 2019. Hundreds of JDS cadres swarmed Apollo Hospital in Chennai to enquire about his health, and the family strictly asked everyone not to disturb him. Kumaraswamy underwent valve replacement on Thursday. He was wheeled into the operation theatre at 6.30am and emerged only by 10.30am. A sedated HD Kumaraswamy has been in the ICU.



Congress Lok Sabha candidate from Belagavi, Mrinal Hebalkar, greets Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru on Thursday | EXPRESS

Cong leaders yet to reach a consensus on Kolar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

BAGALKOT, Veena Kashapannavar, wife of Hungund MLA Vijayayanda Kashapannavar, showed signs of rebellion against Samyukta Patil, who is an "outsider", soon after the list was released. Samyukta Patil hails from Vijayapura. Retired IAS officer Kumar Nayak will be fielded from Raichur. Candidates for Kolar, Ballari, Chikkaballapur and Chamara-
janagar constituencies have not been announced. The party leaders are yet to reach a consensus on Kolar as minister KH Muniyappa wants his son-in-law Chikkapeddappa to contest from there, while former speaker KR Ramesh Kumar is lobbying for former RS member Dr L Hanumanthaiah. In Chikkaballapur, there is a stiff competition between former chief minister M Veerappa Moily and Raksha Ramaiah.

SECOND LIST

- Chandrappa (Chitradurga)
- Mrinal Hebalkar (Belagavi)
- Priyanka Jarkiholi (Chikkodi)
- Samyukta Patil (Bagalkot)
- Vinod Asuti (Hubballi-Dharwad)
- Prabha Mallikarjun (Davanagere)
- Rajasheshkar Itnal (Koppal)
- Radhakrishna Doddamani (Kalaburagi)
- Sagar Khandre (Bidar)
- R Padmaraju (Dakshina Kannada)
- K Jayaprakash Hegde (Udupi-Chikmagalur)
- Soumya Reddy (Bengaluru South)
- Mansur Ali Khan (Bengaluru Central)
- Prof Rajeev Gowda (Bengaluru North)
- M Lakshmana (Kodagu-Mysuru)
- Kumar Nayak (Raichur)
- Dr Anjali Nimbalkar (Uttara Kannada)

FIRST LIST

- DK Suresh (Bengaluru rural), Shreyas Patel (Hassan), Geetha Shivarajkumar (Shivamogga), SP Muddahanur Gowda (Tumakuru), HR Alagura (Vijayapura), Haveri-Anandaswamy Gaddadevaramatha (Haveri) and Venkataramanaswamy AKA Star Chandru (Mandya)

Flouting MCC: FIR against CT Ravi over social media post

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chikkamagaluru

AN FIR has been registered against former BJP MLA **CT Ravi** over his social media post allegedly promoting enmity on the grounds of religion, among others, for allegedly violating the model code of conduct.



"The depths of oceans can be measured, but Rahul Gandhi's hatred against Hindus and Hindu Dharma can never be ascertained. Rahul Gandhi says that 'There is a word called Shakti in Hinduism, our fight is against Shak-

ti". Hindus must ruthlessly vote out CONgress in every election to protect our Dharma from the onslaught of evil forces," the former BJP national general secretary posted on 'X'.

The FIR against Ravi has been registered at Chikkamagaluru Town Police Station under Section 153 A (Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language etc and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) of IPC and 126 of the Representation of the People Act.

The Election Commission directed the DC to initiate action following which Assistant Election Officer Jayalakshamma registered the complaint at the Chikkamagaluru Town Police Station.

Reacting to the FIR, Ravi tweeted, "Dear @ECISVEEP, I have received the details of the FIR filed against me by CONgress. As a Sanatani, I responded to the irresponsible and insensitive comments made by CONgress MP Rahul Gandhi. I would greatly appreciate if you could share the details of the FIR lodged against Rahul Gandhi for his statements hurting the sentiments of those who follow Sanatana Dharma".

Cops book 43 BJP workers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"THE emboldening of such elements is a direct result of Congress's appeasement politics. Just a few days back, people who shouted 'Pakistan Zindabad' were given bail. With such political backing available to Jihadis, naturally, such incidents of crime against Hindus have risen in our State. CM must stop setting wrong precedents. I call upon him to update the State on what action is initiated against the miscreants in this case," Surya posted on the X.

The Flying Squad Team (FST) of the Election Commission had complained that Surya's statement was aimed at the Muslim community and intended at inciting animosity between communities. Based on it, the MP was booked for hate speech on Wednesday.

Halasuru Gate police also booked 43 BJP workers, including Karandlaje, Surya, and Bengaluru Central MP PC Mohan, for causing public nuisance by holding protests against the assault on the shopkeeper without obtaining permission.

YOUR RIGHT

EC to reach out to 2.5L migrated voters from NK

AMIT S UPADHYE @Hubballi

THE State Election Commission has sought the number of voters who have migrated from 14 districts of North Karnataka (NK) in the past two months. The annual migration of people from rural areas begins during April but kicked off in February this year due to drought in some parts of the state.

As per an Election Commission estimation, about 2,52,630 eligible voters from NK region have migrated to other places in search of jobs. Efforts will be made to reach out to them and arrange buses for them during elections to increase the voting percentage.

"CEOs, who are now chairpersons of SVEEP committees (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Programme) in the district, have sought the number of eligible voters who have shifted



The Ballari district administration had organised a voters' awareness programme during the last Assembly elections | FILE

out of their houses. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) have already collected data, and once the numbers are with us, we will try to contact them and persuade them to vote on May 7," explained an official.

The BLOs, besides listing the

migrated voters, will also delete names of deceased people from the voter list. Corrections and additional work will be done in the next few weeks. Close relatives of migrated voters are being contacted by the BLOs to know their wherea-

bouts and how to reach them. "Many times, political parties arrange buses, parties and gifts for migrant voters in the state and country. For instance, a political party threw a lavish party for migrants from North Karnataka in Goa, just before elections. This time, the EC and local administration will arrange for buses to bring voters back," the official added.

However, it's not easy for the administration to contact all the workers. The Commission will take up voting awareness drives through various mediums. "For instance, Ballari district has listed around 15,000 migrated voters, Koppal district has close to 45,000 voters. Numbers of Gadag, Raichur and Kalaburagi are being compiled. BLOs will visit tandas (hamlets) which see the highest migration during summer. Skits and street plays will be organised in villages and other areas," the official said.



WATCHES WITH IMAGE OF AP CM SEIZED

V Velayudham @Chikkaballapur: Wrist-watches carrying images of AP CM Jagan Mohan Reddy have been seized from a vehicle, during an inspection at Bagepalli Toll Plaza check post, informed Chikkaballapur DC and Returning Officer Ravindra PN. Strict vigil with additional forces have been posted at the border areas, in view of the Lok Sabha polls. On Wednesday, a security team headed by SST-2 leader Shivappa was checking vehicles at the toll plaza, when they found four boxes carrying 96 watches, bearing Jagan's image, he told TNIE. Two persons in the car were identified as Bhandi Nagendra, a resident of Ananthpur, and Nagendra, a gunman from the AP Police. A case has been registered.

Annamalai, Tamilisai in BJP's first list for TN

Panneerselvam to contest from Ramanathapuram as an Independent

TMURUGANANDHAM @ Chennai

In a surprise move, the BJP fielded its state president K Annamalai in Coimbatore constituency in the party's first list of candidates for the Lok Sabha elections released on Thursday. Former Telangana governor Tamilisai Soundararajan is taking on DMK's Thamizhachi Thangapandian in the South Chennai seat.

Union Minister L Murugan has been pitted against DMK leader A Raja in Nilgiris. Interestingly, Murugan was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh only last month. Ex-union minister Pon Radhakrishnan will be the party candidate from Kanniyakumari, a seat he represented in 2014. Just hours after BJP's legislative party leader Nainar Nagenthran was named as the party candidate from Thoothukudi, a revised list said



Seats allotted to allies

PMK (10); TMC (3); AMMK (2); New Justice Party, Tamizhaga Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam, Indiya Jananayaka Katchi, and Indiya Makkal Kalvi Munnetra Kazhagam (1 each)

he would be contesting from Tirunelveli. The BJP is contesting in 20 seats. Since four of the allies will also contest in the BJP symbol, the number of candidates contesting on 'lotus' will be 24. In Chennai central constituency, Vinoj P Selva, president of the state BJP's youth wing, will be taking on DMK candidate Dayanidhi Maran. Krishnagiri constituency has been allocated to C Narasimhan, spokesperson of the BJP state unit and former MP.

While New Justice Party leader AC Shanmugam will be contesting from Vellore, Indiya Jananayaka Katchi leader TR Paarivendhar, the incumbent MP, will contest from Perambalur.

Former Chief Minister O Panneerselvam, who has been with the BJP for a long time, decided to contest from Ramanathapuram Lok Sabha constituency as an Independent candidate but as part of the BJP-led alliance. Announcing this in a press conference, Panneerselvam said, "We have sought 15 seats in the BJP alliance. Since we could not get the 'two leaves' symbol as per our cadres wish, to prove our strength, I am contesting from Ramanathapuram."

Asked, why did he decide to contest the LS election while being an MLA, Panneerselvam said, "Instead of fielding a party worker, I thought I should contest to prove our strength."

Jago Hindustani musical event in Raichur tomorrow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kalaburagi

FOR the first time, citizens of Raichur will be witnessing a patriotic musical event 'Jago Hindustani' on Saturday at the auditorium of University of Agriculture Sciences Raichur from 5 pm.

A team of renowned artists 'Swarninad' from Kolhapur will be performing the cultural event which will certainly mesmerize the audience. 'Swarninad' has been staging programmes and entertaining people through music since 1997. It started with Marathi programmes and continued with old Hindi melodies.

In 1997, when India was celebrating the 50th year of Independence, producer Sunil Sutar and director Professor Suresh Shukla of 'Swarninad' designed and brought on stage 'Jago Hindustani'. The programme is based on the theme of Indian culture, freedom movement and present social conditions. The old and new Hindi film songs will be performed on stage with dramatic narration on the background of cultural backdrop with the light effect for about two and half hours.

'Swarninad' has performed 'Jago Hindustani' in almost all the major cities in India, including New Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Bengaluru. The team has also performed at Wagah Border in Punjab. The team has so far performed more than 2,000 stage programmes.

BJP slams Congress leaders over Mekedatu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

BJP leaders in the state have slammed the Congress over its I.N.D.I.A partner DMK's opposition to the Mekedatu reservoir project. Deputy Chief Minister and Water Resources Minister DK Shivakumar, however, reiterated the state government's stand on the project.

"Karnataka's weakest CM Siddaramaiah is being bullied by I.N.D.I.A Alliance partner DMK that it will stall the Mekedatu drinking water project in Karnataka, which could be a solution to Bengaluru's water woes. Will 'tongue-tie' DCM DK Shivakumar now organise 'My Water, My Right' protest taking all his MLAs to Chennai?" questioned Leader of Opposition R Ashoka.

Ashoka asked the CM if he would "now follow 'Raja Dharma' and protect the interests of Kannadigas or will he adhere to 'Maitri Dharma' to save Rahul Gandhi's I.N.D.I

Alliance by compromising Karnataka's interests."

BJP state president BY Vijayendra said the DMK manifesto exposes the Siddaramaiah government's clandestine arrangement with MK Stalin that has cost the farmers of Karnataka, during the time of a severe drought. "The Congress government has sacrificed our farmers and our citizens' drinking water needs for the selfish coalition politics of I.N.D.I.A Alliance! This very much explains its lackadaisical attitude in fighting for our rightful share of our Cauvery water with CWMA, which has resulted in Karnataka releasing water in abundance to TN, more than our share," the BJP leader stated, taking to X.

DCM Shivakumar said it is the stand of DMK. "Let them do anything in their state. I have taken up the water resources ministry to build the Mekedatu project. The Cauvery Water Tribunal is aware of the water issue, they will have to give us justice."

Eliminate harmful vet drugs to save vultures: Study

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

THE population and diet of vultures have been a matter of concern especially after it was found that diclofenac in cattle carcasses was the major reason for the decline in their population. In a first-of-its-kind study in the Indian subcontinent, researchers have found that the diet pattern of vultures varies depending upon the landscape.

Using the metabarcoding technique, a team of scientists from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bombay Natural History Society, Department of Zoology, University of

Cambridge, Karnataka Vulture Conservation Trust, and Hume Centre for Ecology and Wildlife Biology, examined the fecal samples of vultures to study the DNA of the species whose carcasses the vultures consumed.

The study focused on the old-world vultures found in India - White-rumped and Indian vultures and migratory species - Eurasian Griffon and Himalayan Griffon and was published in the Biological Conservation journal was released on Thursday.

Researchers found that the

vulture population saw a drastic decline in the 1990s and early 2000s owing to the use of diclofenac in treating livestock. Researchers noted that even after two decades, their numbers remained low and stable, not showing any signs of recovery.

However, despite banning diclofenac, its illegal use in treating livestock persists and remains unregulated in many pockets of India. Scientists gathered fecal samples from all the vulture species at numerous nesting and roosting sites from 2018-2022, in Karn

taka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Himachal Pradesh.

The study showed that large ungulates were the main dietary component for all the vulture species across landscapes. However, diet composition, particularly the relative intake of domestic and wild ungulates, differed across landscapes, and vulture species.

Based on these results, continuing the efforts to eliminate harmful veterinary drugs remains critical to save them, said Prof Uma Ramakrishnan, senior author, NCBS and co-author of the research paper.



POLL FERVOUR

Balloons with party symbols, manufactured in Perumbavoor have arrived in Kochi. As the election date nears, sellers charge Rs 350 for 100 balloons | A.SANESH

Multi-swarm drones to quell forest fires

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

MORE than 2,12,000 forest fires were reported in the country between November 2022 and June 2023, data from the Forest Survey of India has revealed. To curb the catastrophic impact of these fires that are accelerated due to climate change, researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have presented a new solution, using a swarm of drones.

These AI-driven swarms can be helpful during other natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, locating survivors, delivering essential supplies, and improving communication. Suresh Sundaram, Professor in the Department of Aerospace Engineering, IISc, and his team proposed the use

of coordinated multi-swarm drones flying in to quell forest fires. "By the time somebody identifies and reports a fire, it would have started spreading and cannot be put out with one drone. You need to have a swarm of drones that can communicate with each other," Sundaram added. The study was published in IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics: Systems.

Researchers designed a special algorithm that would allow decentralised decision-making based on real-time data, aimed at maximum efficiency through direct communication between the drones. "When an alarm is raised about a potential fire, the swarms can be sent in, each drone armed with cameras, thermal and infrared sensors, and temperature detectors, to

spot the fires. Once the fire is discovered, the drone closest to it becomes the centre of the swarm. Each drone also has autonomy to calculate the size, and potential spread of fire, and decide how many drones are needed to quench the fire," read the release.

The drones will also figure out which fire cluster will spread fast, and make timely decisions on moving from one fire spot to the other. This solution was inspired by the behaviour of a marine predator, a flagellum called Oxyrrhis marina. "When foraging, it first takes longer to explore the area. Once it feels it's closer to the food source, it reduces the step length and starts exploring the area in detail," said Josy John, PhD student at the Department of Aerospace Engineering.



A lioness drinks water from a pond in Tyavarekoppa Safari, Shivamogga | EXPRESS

Zoo animals cool off in summer with ice treats

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Shivamogga

WITH the rise in temperature, authorities of the Tyavarekoppa Tiger and Lion Safari of Shivamogga have initiated several measures to protect animals from heat stroke and dehydration. The authorities have taken steps like creation of artificial ponds and installation of sprinklers inside enclosures to keep animals cool and slight modifications in the diet given to animals.

The executive director of the safari told *The New Indian Express* that, "Tigers always like water and hence water ponds were created to keep them cool by maintaining water in the pond. When they start feeling the excess heat, they go near the pond and sleep. All animals were given portable water and there is no scarcity of water for animals in the safari. The drinking water has been supplied by the

city corporation and there is 2.5 lakh litres overhead tank along with 2 lakhs litres water sump here. So at a time we have 4.5 lakhs litres of water storage." Sambar deer like wet mud and water, so ponds were filled with water all the time, he informed.

"The herbivores animals like bison, hippopotamus and others were given watermelons, muskmelons, fresh vegetables that have high water content. The new zoo enclosures have water sprinklers and jets that function like rain guns. The water sprinklers and jet help in maintaining the temperature of the floor and animals also enjoy water sprinkling," he added.

"For leopards and other carnivorous animals, meat pieces are frozen along with water to make ice slabs. When the animals try to eat the meat, it drinks the water as well in the form of ice which keeps them hydrated," the official added.

EXPRESS READ

4 of family from M'luru die in Riyadh

Mangaluru: A family of four, including an infant, lost their lives in a car crash while travelling from Riyadh to Madinah to perform Umrah. The accident took place on the outskirts of Riyadh, in Zulfa, on Wednesday. The victims were identified as Hiba, 29, her husband Muhammad Rameez, 34, their three-year-old son Aarush and three-month-old daughter Raha. Hiba was the daughter of Shameem and Zarina, residents of Haleyanady Thokur.

BJD shortlists candidates for LS seats

Bhubaneswar: Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik on Thursday presided over a meeting to review preparedness in Ganjam and two other districts and shortlist candidates for the Lok Sabha and Assembly seats. Ganjam, the home district of the chief minister, was recently in news for the high profile induction of expelled BJD leader Pradip Panigrahi to BJP. Besides, factionalism in the party had also become a cause of worry for the leaders.

Racist remarks against dancer triggers row

Kochi: Kalamandalam Sathyabhama, a 66-year-old artist who runs a dance school in Trivandrum passed denigrating remarks against a particular artist in Chalakudy in an interview with a YouTube channel. Disparaging the artist's complexion, she said he looked like a crow. Meanwhile RLV Ramakrishnan said he will initiate legal action against the artist.

K'taka HC directs state to appoint eligible director of prosecution

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

ORDERING to remove HK Jagadish as in-charge Director of Prosecution and Government Litigation, the Karnataka High Court directed the state government to appoint an eligible and qualified candidate to the post with the concurrence of the chief justice, within eight weeks.

A division bench of Chief Justice N V Anjaria and Justice Krishna S Dixit passed the order while allowing the petition filed by advocate Sudha Katwa seeking directions to remove Jagadish by issuing a writ of quo warranto, as he is an official in the Law Secretariat of the government and does not possess the

prescribed qualification to hold the post in question.

Deprecating the conduct of the government for continuing Jagadish, who was given the additional charge only for six months from August 2019, in the in-charge post with a slew of extensions without any justification, the court said it is not understandable to say the least. The very object of creating a separate directorate for the prosecution of criminal cases is to ensure a fair measure of autonomy and to enhance the efficacy level of the office. "The public prosecutors and additional public prosecutors are subordinate and their performance is super-

vised by the Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP) which cannot be conventionally treated as an ordinary department of the government," the court observed.

The additional government advocate contended that there were service disputes amongst the candidates inter se in the feeder cadre and therefore, the in-charge arrangement was made. The court said no such arrangement is permissible and the feeder cadre is of Deputy Directors of Public Prosecution and therefore, only from amongst them, one can be placed by way of in-charge arrangement, and none else, as per the rules.



SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE



Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, 228A, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata- 700020 CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Julius Wilson/ Thomas Wilson/ H. No 50 A, Phase-2, Tisco Works Engineering Co-operative Housing Colony Adityapur Sarakela-Kharsawa Jharkhand Jamshedpur-832109/ LBRNI0006042126/ LBRNI0006094461	Society Plot No. 50, Old Plot No. 175, Phase II Project, Holding (Plot) No. New 367(P), 366, 275, 274, 276, 334, 336, 280(P), 338, 410, 415, 381(P), 382, Old Khata No. 46, New Khata No. 97, 98 and 235, Holding No. 0220000672000M0, Thana No. 126, Ward No. 4, P.S. Adityapur, Mouza Asangi, N.A.C. Adityapur, District Seraikela Kharsawa, Jharkhand (Admeasuring an Area of property on Plot No.50/A Measuring 1527.5 Sq. Ft./ Date of Symbolic 19.03.2024	November 16, 2023 Rs. 38,08,223/-	Bangalore

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: March 22, 2024
Place: Bangalore

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

varthana

Varthana Finance Private Limited

(Formerly known as M/s. Thirumeni Finance Private Ltd.)

Registered Office at : No. 5 BC-110, Varasiddhi, 3rd Floor, Outer Ring Road, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043. Website: www.varthana.com, Email: care@varthana.com, Phone: 080-68455777, Branch Office : No. 5 BC-110, Varasiddhi, 3rd Floor, Outer Ring Road, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043.

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Section 13(2) & (3) of The Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002.

We hereby serve upon you this notice, the contents whereof you may kindly note: That you the Borrower along with Co-applicants/Mortgagors have approached and requested for grant of the credit facility from M/s Varthana Finance Private Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "Company") (Formerly known as Thirumeni Finance Private Limited). This Demand Notice issued on 04-03-2024, the contents of which are being published herewith as per Sec.13(2) of the Act/Rw Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, by way of alternative service upon the Borrower/Co-applicants/Mortgagor No. 3 & 4, for service of notice, since notices could not be served on the given addresses. At your request and instance, we granted you the following credit facilities (hereinafter collectively referred to as "credit facility"). The details are mentioned below.

Loan Account No: ST18BLR-BL-003489 Sanctioned loan amount Rs.2,87,53,896 Total Liability as on 29-02-2024: Rs.1,95,26,663/- (With Contractual Rate of Interest), Name & Address of Borrower, Co-applicants & Mortgagors : 1). M/s. Leaders International School, Represented by its Authorized Signatory, Gundapura Bypass Road, Gowribidanur, Near Raymond Factory, Bangalore - 561208. 2). M/s. Pinkini Education Trust, Represented by its Authorized Signatory, Gundapura Bypass Road, Gowribidanur, Near Raymond Factory, Bangalore-561208. 3). Mr. Shivarama Reddy S/O Lakshmi Narayana, # 18 2 nd Cross Balaji Layout Anand Nagar, North R. T Nagar, Bangalore-560032. 4). Mrs. Asha Reddy, W/O Shivarama Reddy, #18, 2nd Cross Balaji Layout Hebbal, North, Bangalore - 560032.

That you availed of the above mentioned credit facilities from time to time and utilized the amount and Further, while availing the financial assistance you have given an undertaking for repayment of the said financial assistance in terms of the said agreement(s)/document(s). You have also created a mortgage by way of Deposit of Title Deeds/ Registered Mortgages creating security interest in favor of the Company which is more fully described in below Schedule.

That you continued to enjoy the above credit facility, however, you became irregular and failed to maintain the financial discipline, despite our repeated request and reminders from the officers of the Company, you have failed and neglected to repay the said dues/outstanding liabilities. The operation of and conduct of the above said credit facility has become irregular and the debt has been classified as Non-Performing assets (NPA) in accordance with directives/guidelines relating to asset classifications issued by the Reserve Bank of India consequent to the default committed by you in repayment of principal debt and interest thereon accordingly Loan Account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset on 15-07-2023, and hereby recall the said loan / credit facility and call upon you to pay the entire outstanding balance together with interest and all sums payable by you under the said Agreement.

On account of defaults committed by you, you are jointly & severally liable to pay to us the total outstanding dues of Rs.1,95,26,663/- as on 29-02-2024 with agreed contractual rate of interest, until the date of payment, together with incidental expenses, cost and other charges, thereon. Under the circumstances, we hereby call upon you to repay the above said entire dues of Rs.1,95,26,663/- (Rupees One Crore Ninety Five Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Three Only) as on 29-02-2024 together with future interest from 01-03-2024 at contractual rate plus legal costs/charges thereon within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of this notice. If you fail to repay to the Company the aforesaid sum with further interest and incidental expenses, cost as stated above in terms of this notice U/Sec. 13(2) of the Act, the Company will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

You are also put on notice that in terms of Sub-section (13) of Section 13 you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed below without obtaining written consent of the Company.

This notice is without prejudice to the Company's right to initiate such other actions or legal proceedings, as it deems necessary under any other applicable provisions of Law to recover its legitimate dues.

If you have any representations to be made in response to this, please mark the same to the Authorized Officer, M/s Varthana Finance Pvt Ltd., Varasiddhi, 5BC-110, 3rd Floor, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Bangalore-560043.

Description of the Immovable Property: Schedule Property - All that piece and parcel of the property bearing re Sy. No.7/5 (Old Sy. No. 7/4) and H/C No. 3-88/87 measuring Southern Side 1 acre 21 guntas situated at Gundapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Gowribidanur Taluk and bounded as follows: East By: Property of Narasimhaiah and Others, West By: Property of Bhajantri, North By: Remaining land of 1 acre 21 guntas belongs to Srivanasappa, South By Property of Purchaser.

Date : 22-03-2024, Place : Gowribidanur Taluk

Authorized Officer, Varthana Finance Private Limited



Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS EQUITAS FINANCE LTD)

Registered Office : No.769, Scentur Plaza, 4th Floor, Phase-II, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600002.

POSSESSION NOTICE (U/s. Rule 8 (1) - for immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of M/s. Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the below mentioned Borrowers to repay the total outstanding amount mentioned in the notice being within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. Since the below mentioned Borrowers having failed to repay the below stated amount within the stipulated time, notice is hereby given to the below mentioned borrowers and the public in general that, the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the schedule mentioned properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of M/s. Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited and further interest and other charges thereon." The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets."

SR NO	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Symbolic possession taken date
1	BRANCH - K.R.Puram LOAN NO - EMFKRPM0035685 BORROWER : MR. HARSHA B U Co-Borrower : BHAGIRATHI HM	All that piece and parcel of immovable Portion of Southern Property No.612/1, Site No.01, nd PID No. 150300401000120235, measuring East to West Northern side 56 feet, southern Side 55 feet, North and South eastern side 18 feet, western side 15 feet, in all totally 915.75 Sq Feet Situated at Kannurahalli Village, Doddagattiganabbe Village panchayath, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. North by: Remaining Portion of Site No.01, South by: Site No.2, East by: Private property, West by: road, Measurement: measuring East to West Northern side 56 feet, southern Side 55 feet, North and South eastern side 18 feet, western side 15 feet, in all totally 915.75 Sq Feet Situated at within the Sub-Registration District of Hoskote and Registration District of Bangalore.	27-10-2023 & 1845593	19.03.2024
2	BRANCH - K.R.Puram LOAN NO - EMFKRPM0035850 BORROWER : MR. NALLAGURAPPARAJA Co-Borrower : NALLAGURAPPA GALLIMOPIRI REDDY	All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Site No.117, Present Property No.1011/A/115/117, as per records of Grama Panchayath, E-Property No.150300401000100576, formed in Sy. No.115, (3-33Guntas), in "Rizwan Layout" duly converted for non-agricultural residential purpose, vide Official Memorandum bearing No ALN(Hn. Ka)C.R. No. 12/2010 11 issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District Situated at Kannurahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk Bangalore Rural District and measuring East to West 52 Feet and North to 30 Feet, in all measuring 1560 Sq., Feet. North by: site No.118, South by: site No.116, East by: private property, West by: road, Measurement: East to West 52 Feet and North to 30 Feet, in all measuring 1560sq. feet. Situated at within the Sub-Registration District of Hoskote and Registration district of Bangalore.	27.10.2023 & 3082692	19.03.2024

Date - 21.03.2024,
Place - Bangalore

Authorized Officer,
Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd

TUMKUR UNIVERSITY

Pareeksha Bhavana, B.H.Road, Tumakuru-572103
Phone: 0816-2255650, Fac: 0816-2270719

No.TUT/Exam:17Th Convocation: 2023-24/1296 Date: 21.03.2024

Notification

Sub : Inviting application for awarding degrees in the Seventeenth Annual Convocation – Reg.
Ref : Hon'ble Vice Chancellor's Approval dated : 19.03.2024

The Seventeenth Annual Convocation of the University will be held during the month of April 2024. Those students who have completed their U.G. degree from March/April 2023 to September/October 2023 are eligible (Except P.G. / B.Ed. and P.G. Diploma) to apply for this convocation.

Other details like convocation fee etc., can be obtained from the respective Colleges. The last date for the receipt of filled in applications is 05.04.2024 (without fine) and with a late fee of Rs.500-00/- is 10.04.2024 & Special Fine fee of Rs.1,000-00/- is 15.04.2024 Applications received after the due date will not be considered. For further information visit Tumkur University website www.tumkuruniversity.ac.in

Sd/- Registrar (Evaluation),
Tumkur University, Tumakuru

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, R. CHANDRA KUMAR, intending to purchase House Site bearing New No.22/2, Old No.66/A, PID No. 14-49-22/2, measuring East to West: 25ft., and North to South:40 feet, situated at 12th Cross, 2nd Main Road, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bangalore-560086, BBMP Ward No.67(14) and East by : Site No.66, West by : Site No.67, North by: Road and South by: Site No.61 from its owners SRI T.A. YOGESH S/O SRI. B.R. Anantharama Setty and SMT. T.R. NAGALAKSHMI W/o Sri. T.A. Rajesh, if anybody have any claim, right, interest or objections over the same, please send your objections to me at address shown below within 07 days from the date of publication.

R. CHANDRAKUMAR, Advocate,
RCK-LAW-INC.,
#72/A, 12th Cross, II Main, Mahalakshmi Layout, BANGALURU-560086.
Mail : rckadvocate@gmail.com
M : 9632774333, 9448506294

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the General Public that my client **SMT. RAMYA A.J.** Wife of Sri.Yathiraju.B has lost the original of Sale deed 23.01.2006 executed by Smt.Indramani in favour of Sri. A.V. Jayanna, registered as document No.5029/2006-06 and stored in CD No. NIMGD45 in the office of Sub-Registrar, Nelamangala, pertaining to the immovable property bearing Site No.5, Khaneshmari No.363/05 situated at **Mallapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District** some months back in transit. In case the same is traced by anybody they should hand over the same to the undersigned and also in case anybody is having any claim, charge or interest over the said property, they shall lodge their objections with the undersigned within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of Publication of this Notice.

D.S. BHAT, Advocate,
M/S BHAT ASSOCIATES,
1st Main, 5th Cross, Yeshwanthpur, BANGALURU - 560 022.
Mob : 9916994581
BANGALURU, Date : 21.03.2024

CANARA BANK

Sri P. Satish Kamath Magadi Road II Branch (1042)
No. 46, PH No. 2306, Bangalore-23.
E-mail: cb2421@canarabank.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

1) Sri Gangalah was Working as a Pigmy Agent in Canara Bank, Magadi Road II Branch, since 08.12.1986. On 09.10.2023, he has given resignation due to health issues. If customers have any queries related to their pigmy accounts, the same should be brought to the notice of the bank within 30 days from the public notice and no claims will be entertained after the expiry of stipulated period.

2) Sri P/Satish Kamath was Working as a Pigmy Agent in Canara Bank Magadi Road II Branch since 03.02.1984. On 09.10.2023, he has given resignation due to health issues. If customers have any queries related to their pigmy accounts, the same should be brought to the notice of the bank within 30 days from the public notice and no claims will be entertained after the expiry of stipulated period

Date: 21.03.2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Place : Bangalore Canara Bank



Specialised SME Branch,
Mahadevpura, Octagonal Hall, KSIDCB Building, Dyvasandra Industrial Estate, Mahadevpura, Bengaluru-560048.
Ph: 94835 22421, 080-22815151,
Email: cb2421@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION NOTICE

MACHINERY AUCTION SALE NOTICE

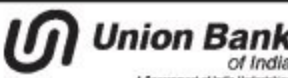
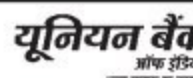
OFFERS ARE INVITED FROM PUBLIC FOR PURCHASE OF BELOW MENTIONED MACHINERY TO BE AUCTIONED BY CANARA BANK MAHADEVAPURA, BENGALURU-560 048.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described movable property/ies Hypothecated to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of MAHADEVAPURA, Bengaluru, will be sold on "As the condition where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 30.03.2024, for recovery of dues (with further interest and charges there on) from the respective borrowers mentioned below:

S.No.	Name of the Borrower	Machinery details	Reserve Price	EMD Amount
1.	M/S Press tech	Semi-automatic key machine with electrical belts, panels, transmissions, self centering vice with coolant pumpset and 8mm coileit only 3 phase VFD charges	Rs. 80,000/-	Rs. 8,000/-
1. The Earnest Money Deposit stated above shall be deposited on or before 28.03.2024 by 4.00 PM. The EMD amount has to be paid by Demand Draft (DD) favouring Canara Bank, MAHADEVAPURA, Bangalore OR through online (RTGS/NEFT/IMPS) to Account No.209272434 (IFSC Code CNRB0002421) of Canara Bank, SME MAHADEVAPURA, Bangalore. 2. E-Auction of Machinery will be held on 30.03.2024, between 11.00 A.M to 11:30 A.M by the service provider M/s CANBANK COMPUTER SERVICES LTD. e-mail: indianbankseaction.com. 3. Interested bidders can inspect machinery on 27.03.2024 at 4.00 PM and satisfy themselves about the machinery before submission of the bid. 4. The intending bidder should submit the KYC Documents along with the bid application. 5. Successful bidder has to remit the balance amount within 7 days from the date of E-Auction, otherwise the EMD amount will be forfeited and will not be refunded under any circumstances. It shall be the responsibility of the successful bidder to bear all the charges for conveyance, transfer registration charges, etc., as applicable. 6. Authorized Officer reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the e-auction without assigning any reason thereof. 7. For further details, please contact Branch Incharge Mahadevpura Branch Canara Bank, Ph. No. 9483522421, 7204416593 during office hours on any working day.				
Place: Bangalore Date : 21.03.2024		Authorized Officer Canara Bank		

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E-TENDER NOTICE

O/o the Executive Engineer, Transmission Division, Kaniyambetta, Wayanad
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_669601_1 PAC-Rs. 1,63,31,912/- Last Date: 02-04-2024 04.00pm
O/o the Executive Engineer, PMU, Electrical Circle, Kallpetta, Wayanad
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_670556_1 PAC-Rs. 1,19,69,092/- Last Date: 03-04-2024 03.00pm
Tender Extension Notice :
O/o the Project Manager, Chembukadavu III & Maripuzha SHEPS, Kozhikode
E-Tender ID: 2024_KSEB_666495_1 PAC-Rs. 1,87,01,027/- Last Date: 02-04-2024 05.00pm
Office of the Deputy Chief Engineer, Transmission Circle, Alappuzha
E-Tender ID-2023_KSEB_626718_2 PAC-Rs. 3,79,27,087/- Last Date: 04-04-2024 03.00pm
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in Ref: PR/MC/1E/483/E-Tender/2024



Doddaballapura Branch
Krishna Towers, No.2349, Ground Floor, Shenigara Pete, Lions Bhavan Road, Doddaballapur-561203, Tel: 080-27627166/27688045, E-mail: ubin090508@unionbankofindia.bank

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule - 8 (1)] (For immovable Property)

Whereas The undersigned being the authorised officer of Union Bank of India, Doddaballapura Branch No.2349, Lions Bhavan Road, Doddaballapur-561203 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest (Second Act) (No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 11.07.2023 calling upon the borrower Mr. N Range Gowda S/o Narayanappa No.459, Property No.37, Mukthambika Layout, 4th Cross, Kurabarahalli 2nd Phase, Muthyallamma Temple, Doddaballapura, Bangalore Rural-561203 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Term Loan (PMEGP)– A/c No.56086100000921, Rs.6,32,595/- (Rupees Six Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety Five only) as on 13.10.2023 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on 19th day of March 2024. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India for an amount Term Loan (PMEGP) A/c No.56086100000921, Rs.6,32,595/- (Rupees Six Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety Five only) as on 13.10.2023 The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the borrower to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY :

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property (land and building owned by Mr. N Range Gowda) Khaneshumari Khatha No.459, Assessment Register No.1523 and property No.37, measuring 40X30 feet, situated at Kurubarahalli, 2nd Stage, Kodigehalli Gram Panchayat, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District- 561203. Bounded as follows by : East : Property of Lakshmi, West : 20 Feet Road, North : Property of Koteppa, South : Property of Ganganna.

Date : 19.03.2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer
Place : Doddaballapura Union Bank of India



CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

Credit Recovery and Management Department

Administrative Office: No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001. E-Mail: crmd@cityunionbank.in, Phone: 0435-2432322, Fax: 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following properties mortgaged to City Union Bank Limited will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorized Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (b) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of Rs.1,69,05,352/- (Rupees One Crore Sixty Nine Lakh Five Thousand Three Hundred and Fifty Two only) as on 19-03-2024 together with further interest to be charged from 20-03-2024 onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors No.1) M/s. H.M.S Silk Industries, No.52, Meleokote, Rehmaniya Nagar, Kanakapura - 562117. Also at M/s. H.M.S Silk Industries, Sy. No. 221, Aralasaandra Village, Kanakapura, Ramanagera - 562117. No.3) Mr. Majeed Shariff, S/o. Mohammed Shariff, Ward 12, Meleokote, Near Urdu School, Kanakapura - 562117. No.4) M/s. MMS Silk Industry, No.236, Hanur Belathuru Village, Kollegala, Ramanagera, Karnataka - 571440.

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule - A : (Property Owned by Mrs. Majira Banu, W/o. Majeed Shariff)

All that piece and parcel of Residential Property bearing Municipal Katha No. 8678/7383/A, PID No. 68-532-551, Measuring : East to West 15.240030 Meters and North to South 18.289037, situated at Ward No. 13, A. K. Colony, Meleokote, Kanakapura Town, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagera District. Bounded on : East by : Road, West by : House of Puttaswami, North by : Road, South by : House of Chikavenkataiah.

Reserve Price : Rs.75,00,000/-
(Rupees Seventy Five Lakh only)

Schedule - B : (Property Owned by Mr. Majeed Shariff, S/o. Mohammed Shariff)
All that piece and parcel of the RCC Ground Floor, Commercial-cum-Residential Property bearing Old Municipal Khatha No. 5471/3667A Measuring : East to West 50 feet and North to South 54 feet together with 2700 sq. ft. situated at Rehmaniya Nagar, Meleokote, Ward No. 12, Kanakapura. Bounded on : East by : Municipal Road, West by : House of Fayaz, North by : House of Fazil, South by : Municipal Road.

Reserve Price : Rs.1,25,00,000/-
(Rupees One Crore Twenty Five Lakh only)

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
12-04-2024	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571511. (3) The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd., together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of "City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. (4) For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195. (5) The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever there is" basis. (6) The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at 01.00 p.m. on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be confirmed on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. (7) The successful bidder shall pay 25% (inclusive of EMD paid) of the Sale amount immediately on completion of sale and the balance amount of 75% within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of 25% shall be forfeited. (8) The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. (9) The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. (10) The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. (11) The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself/herself. (2) The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571511. (3) The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd., together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of "City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. (4) For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195. (5) The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever there is" basis. (6) The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at 01.00 p.m. on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be confirmed on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. (7) The successful bidder shall pay 25% (inclusive of EMD paid) of the Sale amount immediately on completion of sale and the balance amount of 75% within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of 25% shall be forfeited. (8) The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. (9) The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. (10) The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. (11) The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 20-03-2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District

 Chola Real Estate	CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED Corporate Office : "CHOLA CREST", C54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru. Vi.Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.
Branch Address : Municipal No.45, (Old Nos. 45 & 45/1), Second Floor, Lalbagh Road, Bangalore - 560 027.	
POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule - 8 (1)] (For immovable Property)	
under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002	
Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rules 9 of the Securitisation [Enforcement] Rules, 2002 issued a notice dated 08.02.2022 (Loan Account No. X0HEBAN00001875341 & HE02BAN00000003916) calling upon the Borrowers (1) Mr. Sandeep Vimalchand Gadia, 2) Ms. Teena, Both are residing at: Flat No.401, Ashish Royale Apartment No.33, 6th Cross, BS&C 1st Stage, 2nd B, Bangalore South, Karnataka - 600050. (3) M/s. Kavita Agencies, Flat No.401, Ashish Royale Apartment, Srirangap, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560050, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.86,41,032/- and Rs.15,59,576/- totalling to Rs.1,02,00,608/- [Rupees One Crore Two Lakh Six Hundred Eighty Only] as on 05.02.2022 with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers in particular and the public in general that the undersigned as per the Court Order Dated is 25.11.2022 passed by The 8th ACMM, Bangalore in Cr.I.Misc.5605/2022 has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under section 13(4), 13(12) of the said act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rules security interest (enforcement) rules, 2002 on this 20th March 2024. Under section 13(8) of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale. The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, for an amount of being Rs.1,03,14,178/- [Rupees One Crore Three Lakh Fourteen Thousand One Hundred Seventy Eight Only] as on 09.10.2023 and interest and charges thereon. DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY All that piece and parcel of the Residential Apartment Bearing No. 418-A, PID No. 92-1-45/5-30, 3rd Floor of Block -D, measuring Super built area of 1757 Sq.ft., in NEELADRI MAHAL, Phase II, together with undivided share of 730 square feet in Municipal No. 45/5, situated at K.G. Byadrahalli, Nandidurga Road, Bangalore, Presently comes under the Jurisdiction of BBMP and bounded on: East by: Flat No. 418-B, ;D Block, West by : Flat -C of Neeladri Mahal Phase I, North by : Private Property, South by: Flat No.418 'D' Block.	
Date: 20.03.2024 Place : Bangalore	Sd/- Authorised Officer M/s. Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that my client Manjunath S/o Krishnappa R/o: 262/4, Vijaya Bank Colony, Bilekahalli, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-76, has intended to purchase the property more fully described in the schedule herein under from Smt. Somayya R/o Anurkum K.M R/o No 422A 13th Main Road, Mico Layout, Hongasandra, Begur Main Road, Bangalore-68, who is the absolute owner and in possession of the schedule property. If any person/s having any manner of right, title, interest, share or claim what so ever over the schedule property may file their objections in writing to the under signed, within 7 (Seven) days from the date of this publication, along with documentary proof after that, we treat that, have no claims/objections in respect of the schedule property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Site No.1, Khata No. 89/2, measuring East to West 44 feet, North to South 45 feet, total area being 1980 Sq.feet, situated at Bilekahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on:-

East by : Property belongs to Bank Muniyappa, **West** by : Doreeswamy's property, **North** by : Erappa's property, **South** by : Road.

SUMITHTHA M, Advocate
No.654, 2nd Floor, 6th Cross, Kodihalli,
Bangalore-560 008. Ph: 974296022

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice under the instructions of my client, **Mr. K. Raja Mohammed, S/o. Late Mr. Chakkaiyandi**, has been received and returned to the General Public that my client has lost the file containing the original document, i.e., Sale Deed of the immovable property, the Schedule Property is morefully detailed as follows: **Plot No. 180** was executed by the vendor **Mr. S. A. Svalingam, S/o. Mr. K. J. Jayanthi**, bearing (old) No. **371**, (New No. **381**), 2nd Cross, **Boobanpatti, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore 560052**. B.M.P. ward No. **93**, PID No. **78-84-23/1**. My client is the absolute owner who holds the rights of the said property.

The registered Sale Deed, dated: **20-03-1980** was executed by the vendor **Mr. A.S. Svalingam, S/o. Mr. A.K. Singaravelu Mudaliar, in favour of Mrs. K.S.K. Jai, w/o. Mr. K.S. Khader** both in respect to the said Schedule Property registered under Sale Deed No. **2603/1980-81**, Pages **66 to 70** of **Volume 180**, of the **Chennai District**. **Mr. K. Jai** who is the mother of my client was the previous owner of the property and the said property was inherited by my client and my client is the absolute owner in possession of the property and enjoys all the rights therein.

My client has given a lost and found complaint on **20-03-2024** under E-cplaint lost article report, vide **Sl. No. 984034 and Lost Report No. 0984034-2024** dated **21-03-2024** has been generated.

If anybody finds the same, kindly return to below mentioned address or if any person/s or anyone has the originals of the said Schedule Property the same may be brought to note within **7 (SEVEN) DAYS** from the date of Publication hereof, failing which it will be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned. If offenders misuse or misappropriate the same, they will be prosecuted under Criminal Law and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of land with building and other constructions thereon being apportion of immovable property now known as and bearing Corporation No.23, and Division No.44, Bangalore, bounded on the **North** by: portion of the same property, measuring **11 feet**, on the **South** by: Road, measuring on that side **11 feet**, on the **East** by: remaining portion of the same property, measuring **11 feet**, on the **West** by: Private Property, measuring **500 Sq. Ft.** with plain area of the building is about **3** squares.

Sd/- **KRISHNA KUMAR R.** Advocate
No. 49/19, House No. 49, Arambam Layout,
20th "C" Cross, Sri, Rama Temple,
Road, Ejipura, Bangalore-560 047.
Mob: 965639 33448, Date: 21-03-2024

07
BENGALURU
FRIDAY 22.0

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

NOTICE

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED hereby brings to the notice of general public and LICHFL customers that our new Cluster Office will be opening on March 30th, 2024 at below premises.

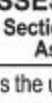
KORAMANGALA CLUSTER OFFICE :

Sri Krishna Arcade, 1st Floor, No.1053, 7th Main Road, 3rd Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560034

<u>Corporate Office</u>	<u>Registered Office</u>
LIC Housing Finance Ltd., Maker Tower, 'F' Premises, 13th Floor, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai-400005. Maharashtra. Tel : +91 2222178600 Fax : 222 2178777	LIC Housing Finance Ltd., Bombay Life Building, 2nd Floor, 45/47, Veer Nariman Road, Fort Mumbai-400001. Maharashtra. Tel : +91 2222049862/22049799 Fax : 222 22049839

Web: www.lichousing.com

CIN No. L65922MH1989PLC025227

 Chola Crest <i>Since 1890</i>	CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED Corporate Office: "CHOLA CREST", C54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru. Vi.Ka Industrial Estate, Gunglur, Chennai - 600 032. Branch Address : 2nd Floor, No.780, 2nd Main Road, Near Lalitha Gas Agency Kengeri Satellite Town, Kengeri, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560060.
POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule - 8 (1)] (For immovable Property) under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002	
Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rules 9 of the Security Interest [Enforcement] Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 09.10.2023 (Loan Account No.HE01KEE0000002411) calling upon the Borrowers (1) Ramesh Yadav Kalyan Singh Yadav (Applicant), (2) Damini R (Co-applicant) both are residing at : No.31, Bhandhalli Road, Chandrashekar Bldg, Machohalli, Machohalli Bangalore Karnataka - 562130, (3) Sree Supriya Multiplespecialty Hospital (Co-Applient), No.15/1, Prakash Nagar, 7th Main Ayappa Swamy Temple Road, Bangalore- 562130, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 1,03,14,178/- (Rupees One Crore Three Lakh Fourteen Thousand One Hundred Seventy Eight Only) as on 09.10.2023 with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers in particular and the public in general that the undersigned as per the Court Order Dated is 16.02.2024 passed by the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru Rural District at Bangalore in CrI.Misc.244/2024 has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under section 13(4), 13(12) of the said act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rules security interest (enforcement) rules, 2003 on this 20th March 2024. Under section 13(8) of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale. The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, for an amount of being Rs. 1,03,14,178/- (Rupees One Crore Three Lakh Fourteen Thousand One Hundred Seventy Eight Only) as on 09.10.2023 and interest and charges thereon.	
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY	
All that piece and parcel of property bearing residential Site No.07 and 08 and residential Site No.11 and No.12, formed in property assessment No.15/5, Machohalli Gramacha, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently within the limits of Machohalli Village Panchayath and bounded on : East by : 30 feet road, West by : 30 feet road, North by: site no.9 and Site No.10 presently private property, South by site no.6 and site no.13 presently private property, Measuring East to West 80 feet and North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 3200 square feet along with the building constructed thereon. Within the registration district of bangalore and sub registration office.	
Date: 20.03.2024 Place : Bangalore	Sd/- Authorised Officer M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited

GULBARGA UNIVERSITY, KALABURAGI,
Ganga, Kalaburagi-585 106, Karnataka, India
1960 as per Karnataka State Universities Act 1976 as amended under the University Act (2000)
2002 / 08472-263206, email: registrarugul@rediffmail.com
Administration Department
1971 Date: 20.03.2024

:: CIRCULAR ::

ment of Direct / Walk-in Interview of History Department.
AR-2023-24:1934 Dated: 14.03.2024.
val of Hon'ble Chancellor: 20.03.2024.

ference (1), the Direct / Walk-in interview of Guest Lecturer of
Studies was fixed on 21.03.2024. In the backdrop of Election
enting Code of Conduct for Lok Sabha Elections on 16.03.2024,
e Chancellor's reference (2) the postponed date of Direct /
cturer of Department of History Studies will be intimated in later

Sd/- Registrar
Gulbarga University, Kalaburagi

2023-24

MANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED		
Office: "CHOLA CREST", C54 & 55, Super-B 4, Thiru. Vi.Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032		
Address : Municipal No.45, (old Nos. 45& 45/1), Second Floor, Lalbagh Road, Bangalore-560027		
Floor, Hanuman Ext, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bagalagunte Nagasandra Post, Peenya, Bangalore -560073		
SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002		
The Borrower is hereby informed that the company has initiated proceedings against you under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and that the Notice Under 13(2) of the Act is being issued to you. The company has initiated proceedings against you for the Borrower's has been returned undelivered. Hence, you are hereby called upon to take notice of the proceedings against the said account with interest accrued there from within 60 days from the date of the issue of this notice. If you fail to do so, the company will proceed against you by exercising its right under Sub-Sec (4) of Section 13 of the Act by attaching its dues with interests and costs. It is needless to mention that this notice is addressed to you and is valid till the company.		
Name and address of the Borrowers/	Loan Amount(s) in Rs.	Date of Demand Notice & Total Amount Outstanding
000031534 Jaylaxmi Sanjay Patil (Co-applicant) Both residing at, 3rd Main, MSR Nagar, RMV, 2nd Stage, 3rd Stage, (3) Om Sai Enterprises (Co-applicant) RMV 2nd Stage, Next to Vaibhav Theater,	Rs. 75,000,000/-	13.03.2024 & Rs. 76,07,456/- as on 13.03.2024 together with interest thereon.
Notice: All that piece and parcel of property bearing No 58, PID No 4-169-58, situated at RMV 2nd Stage, near Hanahalli, Bangalore, Presently within the Limits of BBMP and Bounded on East by: Property Property No.57, South by : Property No.59, measuring East to West : 40 feet and North to South : 30 feet along with building constructed thereon within the Registration District of Bangalore and sub		
Name and address of the Borrowers/	Loan Amount(s) in Rs.	Date of Demand Notice & Total Amount Outstanding
000029817 Ganga Rani (Applicant) (2) Gundappa (Applicant) (3) Chandrashekar Gundappa residing at: No.188/B, 2nd Main, 6th Cross, Factory Building, Bangalore-560026. (4) V and Broadband Operation (Co-applicant) Vijaynagar, Bangalore, Karnataka-560026.	Rs. 35,00,000/-	13.03.2024 & Rs. 35,91,679/- as on 13.03.2024 together with interest thereon.
Notice: All that piece and parcel of the municipal No 97/11, situated at Guddadahalli, Extension, Bangalore. Presently within the limits of BBMP and Bounded on the : East by : K.V. Shankar S Property, Bangalore No.4, South by : 30 feet Road, measuring East to West : 15 feet and North to South : 40 feet along with the building constructed thereon, within the registration district of Bangalore and		
Name and address of the Borrowers/	Loan Amount(s) in Rs.	Date of Demand Notice & Total Amount Outstanding
00000005413, (2) HOHEPV000239177Z, 00003196075 Athavale S (Co-applicant) Both are residing at, No. 1223/64, 1st Mn Rd, MRCC Extension, Bangalore, Karnataka-560070, (3) M/s. Global Batteries Pvt.Ltd. No.01, No.47, DR TCM, Royan Rd, Goodshed Bangalore-560053.	(1) Rs. 8,17,000/- (2) Rs. 31,00,000/- & (3) Rs. 13,00,000/-	13.03.2024 & Rs. 42,50,376/- as on 13.03.2024 together with interest thereon.
Notice: All that piece and parcel of Flat No.101 in the ground floor having 1227 sq.ft of super built-up area share in property bearing new municipal no. 1223/64 (Old BDA Site No.1223), situated at Guddadahalli in presently under the limits of BBMP and bounded on: East by: Site No. 1224, West by: Boundary of Agrahara Dasarahalli now conservancy lane, South by: Road, Land measuring 1227 sq.ft.		
Sd/- Authorised Officer M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited		

3.2024

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

ಕೆ.ಎಮ್.ಎಫ್. ಡೆಂಪೊ ಡೆಲಿ ಅಮಿಟೆಡ್

ದಾ: ದಲಕಡಿ-ಬನವಳ್ಳಿ ಅಸಂಘಿ-587311

ಇ. ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ

ದಿನಾಂಕ:13.02.2024

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಹಾಲು ಮತ್ತು ಮಂಡಳಿ ಪ್ರಾಚೀನವಾದ ಡೆಂಪೊ ಡೆಲಿ ಇಂಡಸ್ಟ್ರೀಸ್ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್ ಕಂಪನಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.08.2023 ರಂದು ನಡೆದ ಡಿಡಿಎಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 47ನೇ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಸರ್ವೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಚರಣೆ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಡೆಂಪೊ ಡೆಲಿ ಇಂಡಸ್ಟ್ರೀಸ್ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್ ಹೆಸರನ್ನು "ಕೆಂಎಫ್ ಡೆಂಪೊ ಡೆಲಿ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್" ಎಂದು ಬದಲಾಯಿಸಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಿದುದನ್ನು ಕಂಪನಿ ಡಿಡಿಎಲ್ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ Ministry of Corporate Affairs (Govt of India) ಹೆಸರು ಬದಲಾಯಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದು, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.10.2023 ರಂದು Ministry of Corporate Affairs (Govt of India) ಬಳಿಯೆಂದು ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತವಿರುವ ಡೆಂಪೊ ಡೆಲಿ ಇಂಡಸ್ಟ್ರೀಸ್ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್ ಎಂಬ ಹೆಸರನ್ನು "ಕೆಂಎಫ್ ಡೆಂಪೊ ಡೆಲಿ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್" ಎಂದು ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪ್ರಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು/ ಉದ್ಯಮಿಗಳಿಗೆ/ ಪರಿವಾರವಿದಾರರಿಗೆ/ಇತರರು ಸದಸ್ಯರಾದುದು ಒಕ್ಕಗಟ್ಟಳೆಗೆ ಹತ್ತಿ ಪ್ರವಹಿಸಿಸಲು ಉತ್ತರಣವಾಗುವುದು" ಹಾಗೂ ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ "ಕೆಂಎಫ್ ಡೆಂಪೊ ಡೆಲಿ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್" ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲು ಕೋಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕೆಂಎಫ್ ಡೆಂಪೊ ಡೆಲಿ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್, ಪರವಾಗಿ
ಸಹಿ/-
ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು

 केनरा बैंक Canara Bank (A Government of India Undertaking)	Benson Town Branch 18/A, Millers Road, Benson Town, Bengaluru-560046. Tel.Ph. 080-23541454, Mob: 9843520429 E-mail : cb0429@canarabank.com
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property)	
Whereas: The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 27.12.2023 calling upon the Borrowers (1) Raghavendra Prasad S/o Late Mr. Ramachandra K, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being Rs. 41,15,020.38 (Rupees Forty One Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Twenty and Thirty Eight Paise Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this 21st day of March of the year 2024. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Canara Bank for an amount of Rs.41,15,020.38 and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. Description of the Immovable Property Schedule ' A' Property : Residential sites bearing Nos. 195, 196, 223, 224, BBMP Khata Si. No. 2561, presently bearing property No. 2047/4/32/1/35/224/223/195/196 situated at Padma Upadhaya Layout, Nagadevanahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore, carved out of residentially converted lands in Sy. no. 31, 32/1 & 35 of Nagadevanahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, (duply converted into non agricultural residential purpose as per the conversion certificate vide No. ALN SR 2018/1970-71, dated 31.12.1973) measuring 8400 Sq.ft, bounded on : On the North by : Site No. 194 and Site No. 222, On the South by : Site No. 194 and Site No. 225, On the East by : Road, On the West by : Road.	
Date : 21.03.2024 Place : Bengaluru	Sd/-Authorized Officer Canara Bank



इसरो

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

U R Rao SATELLITE CENTRE, HAL Airport Road, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore - 560 017

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP (Phone : 080 25084168, 4175, 4169) (Fax:080 25084155)

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, item rate tender is invited for the following work.

Description	Details	Details	Details
Name of work	Air Conditioning works for renovation of various labs at Main Campus, URSC, Vimanapura, Bangalore-560017.	Replacement of 2 Nos. Airport Cooled Chillers fedwater to CATF at ISITE Campus, URSC, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560037.	Augmentation of compressed air dryer facility for AITF-1 extension facility at ISITE Campus, URSC, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560037.
E-Tender Notice	URSC/C and MG/ACMDI/AC/104/ETN-59A/2023-24 Dt.21.03.2024.	URSC/C and MG/ACMDI/AC/104/ETN-60A/2023-24 Dt.21.03.2024.	URSC/C and MG/ACMDI/CP/104/ETN-92M/2023-24 Dt.21.03.2024.
Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 14.19 Lakhs	₹ 223.72 Lakhs	₹ 11.14 Lakhs
Tender Document Details	E-Tender	E-Tender	E-Tender
Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date issue of work order.	365 days / 12 months	180 days / 06 months	180 days / 06 months
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	From 10:30 Hrs. on 22.03.2024 to 16:30Hrs. on 12.04.2023	From 10:30 Hrs. on 22.03.2024 to 16:30Hrs. on 12.04.2024	From 10:30 Hrs. on 22.03.2024 to 16:30Hrs. on 04.04.2024
Bid clarification	From 11:00 Hrs. on 22.03.2024 to 17:00 Hrs. on 15.04.2023	From 11:00 Hrs. on 22.03.2024 to 17:00 Hrs. on 15.04.2024	From 11:00 Hrs. on 22.03.2024 to 17:00 Hrs. on 05.04.2024
Last date and time of reply to Bid clarification.	Upto 17:00Hrs on 17.04.2023	Upto 17:30Hrs on 17.04.2024	Upto 17:00Hrs on 08.04.2024
Last date and time for receipt of tenders.	Upto 14:30 Hrs. on 23.04.2024	Upto 14:30 Hrs. on 23.04.2024	Upto 14:30 Hrs. on 15.04.2024
Due date and time of opening of tenders.	After 15:00 Hrs. on 23.04.2024	After 15:00 Hrs. on 23.04.2024	After 15:00 Hrs. on 15.04.2024
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs.28,380/- (Validity for 180 days)	Rs.4,47,040/- (Validity for 180 days)	Rs.22,280/- (Validity for 180 days)
			Rs.29,740/- (Validity for 180 days)

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO

Sd/- Group Director (Construction & Maintenance Group)



ESTD: 1907

THE BANGALORE CITY CO-OP. BANK LTD.,

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: NO. 3, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore -18.

Office: 26678572 : 26600512: 26609066. Tele Fax: (080) 26617980

(Rule 8 (1) POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) (Symbolically)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorised officer of The Bangalore City Co-operative Bank Ltd., A.O., No.3, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-18 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Ordinance, 2002 (Ord. 3 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued and demand notice calling upon the undersigned borrowers/ legal heirs to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers /legal heirs having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers /legal heirs and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Ordinance read with rule 9 of the said rule.

The borrowers / legal heirs in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of The Bangalore City Co-operative Bank Ltd., A.O., No.3, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-18.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Sl.No.	Name of the Loanee	Balance Outstanding	Particulars of Immovable Property & Measurement
JAYANAGAR BRANCH			
01	Sri. Sridhar Gadani Setty	Demand Notice Dated : 17.01.2024 Possession Notice Dated 18.03.2024 Balance outstanding : Rs.48,48,737/- as on : 18.03.2024	Property & Measurement - Municipal No. 31/1, Old Property No. 24/78, Sy. No. 31/1, BBMP Khatha Sl. No. 1249, BBMP Khatha No. 1249/24/78/31/1, BBMP Ward No. 24/78/31/1, Puttenahalli Gramatan, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, BBMP Ward No. 187 of Puttenahalli, Bengaluru. Measuring : East to West: 27 feet & North to South: 21 feet. East by : Road, West by : Krishnappa's House, North by : Rajappa's House, South by : Road.
INDIRANAGAR BRANCH			
02	Sri. Rajashekar. K	Demand Notice Dated : 08.01.2024 Possession Notice Dated 18.03.2024 Balance outstanding : Rs.20,49,622/- as on : 18.03.2024	Property & Measurement : No.01, Old HASB Khatha No. 385/1/373, New Khatha No.2899, Property No.102/1, Khatha No.385/1, Doddanankudi Village, BBMP Ward No. 85 of Doddanankudi, PID No.85-W0322-1, Bengaluru. Measuring : East to West : 55+43 feet & North to South : 40+45 feet East by : Road, West by : Private Property, North by : Govt. Road, South by : House Site No. 02.
SHANTHINAGAR BRANCH			
03	Sri. Krishnaih. M	Demand Notice Dated: 06.01.2024 Possession Notice Dated: 19.03.2024 Balance outstanding :Rs.14,91,547/- as on : 19.03.2024	Property & Measurement : - New Municipal No.16/1, (Western Portion), Old No.16, previous No.130, 30th 'A' Cross Road, Huts Colony East Layout & BTB Area, 4th Block, Jayanagar East, Hombegowda Nagar, BBMP Ward No.62, Hombegowda Nagar, New Ward No. 153 of Jaynagar, PID No.62-95-16/1, Bengaluru. Measuring : East to West : 10 feet & North to South : 30 feet. East by : Site No.130 & Remaining property, West by : Site No.129, North by : BDA Land, South by : Road.
04	Smt. Mubeen Taj	Demand Notice Dated: 16.12.2023 Possession Notice Dated: 19.03.2024 Balance outstanding : Rs.33,03,042/- as on : 19.03.2024	1st Schedule Property & Measurement : - Municipal No. 155, Krishnamurthy Colony, Siddapura, Mavalli, BBMP Ward No. 155 & New Ward No. 144 of Siddapura, PID No. 61-77-155, Bengaluru. Measuring : East to West : 20 feet & North to South : 25 feet East by : Site No.156, West by : Road, North by : Site No.154, South by : Road. 2nd Schedule Property & Measurement : -No.230, Krishnamurthy Colony, Lalbagh Siddapura, BBMP Ward No.61 of Mavalli, PID No.61-77-230, Bengaluru. Measuring : East to West : 18 feet & North to South : 25 feet. East by : Property No. 231, West by : Property No. 229, North by : Property No. 233, South by : Road.
RAMANAGAR TOWN BRANCH			
05	Smt. Sukanya , Sri. Chethan. R & Sri. Abhishek. R	Demand Notice Dated: 08.01.2024 Possession Notice Dated: 18.03.2024 Balance outstanding : Rs.16,64,617/- as on : 18.03.2024	Property & Measurement : -No.152/100203100221759/1279, as Per Gramapanchayathi records property No.1279 of Bharathinagar, Chikkarasinakere Hobli, Mellahalli Dhakale, Maddur Taluk, Mandya District. Measuring : East- West: 25 feet & North- South: 42 feet. East by : Remaining portions of the property, West by : Property belongs to Chennamma, North by : Road, South by : Site belongs to Dodd Annara Kariyappa.
KONANAKUNTE BRANCH			
06	Sri. Nagendra. M (Deceased) Legal Heirs 1. Shashikala N (Wife), 2) Nithin N (Son)	Demand Notice Dated: 12.12.2023 Possession Notice Dated: 18.03.2024 Balance outstanding : Rs.54,10,912/- as on : 18.03.2024	Property & Measurement : -No.34, Old Property No.15, Old Khaneshumari No.11, Old Khatha No.198/168-1, Situated at 9th Main, Kalinga Rao Road, Bendre Nagar, Previously Known as Kadirenahalli Grama, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, presently coming under the Jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No. 55 of Padmanabhanagar, PID No. 55-170-34, Bengaluru. Measuring : East to West : 40 feet & North to South : 30 feet. East by : 30 feet Road, West by : Property no.14, North by : Muniyamma's property, South by : A. Ramaswamy's property.

Date: 21.03.2024

Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorized Officer

The Bangalore City Co-operative Bank Ltd.,

newindianexpress.com

IN THE COURT OF THE V ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BANGALORE
 P & SC NO.70/2024 (CGH - 13)

BETWEEN:- SRI. UDAYAN DASGUPTA, Son of Late Maniklal Haraprasanna Dasgupta, Aged about 53 years, Residing at 6e Habatat Street, 4th Floor, Itpl Main Road, Opposite Hotel Zuri, Hoodi Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore North, Bangalore - 560 048.

.....PETITIONER
.....RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

Whereas the above named has made petition to this Hon'ble Court under Section 371 and 372 of Indian Succession Act for grant Succession Certificate in favour of the Petitioner; in respect of the schedule mentioned below. The below mentioned schedule has been held by deceased Sri Nabarun Dasgupta, the brother of the Petitioner herein who expired on 25.09.2023.

Interested parties are hereby called to appear in Hon'ble Court in person or by pleader duly instructed on **23.04.2024 at 11:00 A.M** inform to show cause against the petitioners failing wherein the appearance will be heard and declared as Ex-parte.

SCHEDULE
SCHEDULE MOVABLE PROPERTY

Employees Deposit Linked Insurance	Master Policy No. 508435	Type of Policy: A non linked Non Participating Group Term Life Insurance Plan	Product Unique Identification No:109N006V07	Aditya Birla Sun Life Group Protection Solutions Policy
Term Life	Master Policy No. 505986	Type of Policy: A non linked Non Participating Group Term Life Insurance Plan	Product Unique Identification No:109N006V07	Aditya Birla Sun Life Group Protection Solutions Policy
Provident Fund	Employee Id: 01043530	PF NO: PYKRP0024631000002 2742	UAN NO: 1002470361 91	Company Name: 24/7 Customer Service Pvt Ltd
Gratuity	Employee Id: 01043530			Company Name: 24/7 Customer Service Pvt Ltd

Given under my hand and the seal of this court that **18-03-2024**.
Advocate for Petitioner: Gavraj C.N.,
 Office at No.281, 17th F Main, 3rd Cross, 5th Block, KHB Colony, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560095.

By Order Of The Court, Asst. Registrar
City Civil Court, Bangalore

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India 	ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH, BANGALURU NORTH No.635 C (New No.252), 1st Main Road, E Block, 2nd Stage, Rajaji Nagar Dr Rajkumar Road, Bangalore - 560 016 Mail id:ar.bangaluru@unionbankofindia.bank. Mobile: 9802323669
  	
POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule - 8 (1)] (For Immovable Property)	
Whereas: The undersigned being the Authorized officer of Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch, Bangaluru North, Bangalore, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 06.09.2023 (Account transferred from our Dasarahalli Branch Bangalore to ARB-Bangaluru North) calling upon the Borrowers/Mortgagees/ Guarantors : (1) M/s Venkatachawara Hollow Bricks represented by its proprietor Mr. Mohan Rao . G , N 52/1, Nisarga Layout, Abbigere Chikkibavana Post, Bangalore-560090 1A), Mr. Mohan Rao G, N 52/1, Nisarga Layout, AbbigereChikkibavanaPost, bangalore-560090 2) Mrs P Umadevi, N 52/1, Nisarga Layout, Abbigere, Chikkibavana Post, bangalore-560090, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice Rs. 73,51,913.98 (Rupees Seventy-three lakh fifty-one thousand nine hundred thirty-eight and paise ninety-eight only) and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act,read with rule 8 of the said rules on this 21st March 2024. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch, Bangaluru North for an amount Rs. 73,51,913.98 (Rupees Seventy-three lakh fifty-one thousand nine hundred thirty-eight and paise ninety-eight only) and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.	
DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURED ASSETS:	
Name of the Owner of the scheduled Property : Smt. P Umadevi	
Vacant House Site No.13, 11th Main Road, Raghavendra Swamy Temple Road, Near Sir Ram Bus Stop, Abigere Main Road, Ward No 12, Kamagondaahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North-560 015, Measuring East To West 31 feet and North to South 70 feet in all measuring 2170 Sq.ft and Bounded by: East: Property belongs to Sobha, West : KC Ashok and KC Snrivas property, North: Others Property South: Road.	
Date: 21.03.2024 Place: Bangalore	Sd/- Authorised Officer Union Bank of India



INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

TAMIL NADU FACES A FOUR-CORNERED LOK SABHA CONTEST

THE alliances have been formed, pacts sealed and campaigning begun in earnest in Tamil Nadu, which will see a four-cornered race in the upcoming parliamentary polls. The DMK-led bloc embarks on its campaign with allies who have contested multiple elections together, thereby ensuring smoother coordination at the ground level. However, after nearly three years in power in the state, the front also faces some degree of anti-incumbency. Its governance has not been without controversy or complaints; law and order; management of disasters, corruption allegations and nepotism are some of the issues its opponents will raise to target the ruling party. Cognisant of these sentiments, the DMK has dropped six sitting MPs and convinced its ally, the Congress, to change some of the seats from which it contested the last time. On paper, the DMK alliance, touted as an ideological one, seems well placed, especially given the likely split in the opposition votes.

The split is likely to occur as the BJP and the AIADMK parted ways, and have formed separate fronts with smaller parties. The BJP-led NDA managed to secure the support of the PMK, which has long maintained a 5 percent vote share and has deep pockets of support in the northern parts of Tamil Nadu. This is a morale booster for the party, which is invested in becoming an alternative to the Dravidian majors, as evidenced by the prime minister's multiple visits to the state in recent weeks. Its goal is undoubtedly to win at least a couple of seats while emerging as the state's second largest party in terms of vote share. However, its erstwhile ally, the AIADMK, cannot be so easily written off. Although it enters the poll season without strong allies, it will not be so willing to cede its space to the BJP. While the main goal for the AIADMK is victory in the 2026 assembly elections, a respectable performance in the parliamentary polls is essential to keep its hat in the race.

The last contender is the Tamil nationalist party, Naam Tamilar Katchi, which garnered a vote share of 6.89 percent in the 2021 elections and has found favour among younger voters. Whether it may win a seat or not, its presence will undeniably be a factor in at least some constituencies.

FIX KARNATAKA BOARD EXAM CHAOS SWIFTLY

It can be quite traumatic being a student in a Karnataka school right now. State board students of classes 5, 8, 9 and 11 have been in a state of complete confusion over their board examinations, which are caught in a tussle between schools and courts over whether they should be held. As of now, the exams conducted by the Karnataka State Education Assessment Board (KSEAB) have been deferred, with a division bench of the Karnataka High Court reserving its judgement.

The saga of court stays over the past fortnight reads like a confounding comedy, which has brought much anxiety to students, parents and school administrations after private unaided schools filed a writ petition in the high court challenging the exams. A single judge halted the exams, and the state government promptly challenged it before a division bench, which, in its wisdom, stayed the order and the exams commenced on March 11. Amid this chaos, by the time Class 11 students had completed their exams and the other classes had written one paper, the Supreme Court put them on hold on March 12. The SC also directed the high court division bench to deal with the matter.

The point of contention—between the government on one side, and private schools and parent-student associations on the other—is that according to Section 30 of the Right to Education Act, “no child shall be required to pass any board examination till completion of elementary education”. Parent-student associations claim the KSEAB cannot spring nasty surprises in the form of board exams, while the state has said it is an internal exam meant for the students' continuous assessment. Other arguments were that parents should have been consulted, their rights have been violated, and that exam anxiety has led to suicides among students. While this is increasingly true, both schools and parents should look at the pros and cons of exams. An exam should not be turned into something dreaded; it should be a positive, non-judgemental test of knowledge. We should also introspect whether we are being far too protective of young minds, which is why students get in a flap over an exam. It is reflective of the ills of our system, which links marks with success. The Karnataka government and courts should reach a swift solution, and ensure that the unfortunate students trapped in this battle are not further traumatised.

QUICK TAKE

PREPARE FOR A GLOOMY GEN

WE might paraphrase Leo Tolstoy to say happy age groups are alike, but unhappy ones are unhappy in their own ways. That is the disturbing trend a new section in this year's World Happiness Report—ranking 140 countries by age groups—revealed. Those born after 1980 are generally unhappier than those born before 1965. Unhappiness increases with age among Millennials, while among Boomers it falls with advancing years. Indian adolescents are the least satisfied with their lives compared to their South Asian peers, barring those in Afghanistan. The government, parents and schools must prepare for what is turning out to be a mental health crisis.

HERE are times when one wonders whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been a below-the-radar ‘Russianist’ or an unabashed Russophile. Of course, it is possible to be both. Modi's congratulatory message on Monday to Russian President Vladimir Putin on his magnificent election victory made headlines against the backdrop of the nasty characterisation of the poll as a sham and a fraud by the Western and Indian press.

Feelings are running high in Western capitals with the growing realisation that it is too late to influence the outcome of the Ukraine war. A covert attempt to destabilise Russia appeared in the run-up to the presidential election on March 15-17. A 1,500-strong strike force from across the border with Ukraine comprising Russian speakers in a special unit and a large number of foreign fighters supported by tanks and armoured personnel carriers (including Bradley infantry fighting vehicles) and shock troops from elite Ukrainian units made a desperate attempt to capture some Russian territory in the Belgorod region.

The operation ended in a fiasco and the polling went ahead as scheduled. The entire operation was aimed at weakening support for Putin and disrupting the election in Russia.

Now Plan B is unfolding to discredit the election result. But the turnout of 74 percent speaks for itself. In reality, this has been a vote on Putin and not about democracy. The Russian electorate handed down a resounding mandate of support and approval of Putin's handling of the war and, equally, in steering the economy to an impressive growth trajectory as well as an ambitious blueprint of modernisation and innovation. There is a manifest surge of Russian nationalism, which Putin epitomises. Western capitals are loathe to accept it.

Modi's message to Putin—followed by a phone call to Putin on Wednesday—acknowledges this reality and takes note of its profound implications for India's relations with Russia. Even Modi's detractors will admit that the US-led proxy war against Russia puts to the ultimate test India's time-tested relationship with Russia. No doubt, India held its ground despite the immense pressure from the Biden administration. The India-Russia relationship has touched a qualitatively new level and acquired forward-looking dynamics. But for our prime minister's farsightedness and hands-on role, this would not have happened.

Narendra Modi has played an astute game in engaging all protagonists involved in Russia's war in Ukraine. The West's fracturing support for Ukraine is playing to Putin's advantage

PUTIN'S MANDATE IS FOR SETTLING THE UKRAINE WAR

M K BHADRAKUMAR

Former diplomat



SOURAV ROY

In the latest meeting of the Ukraine Defence Contact Group on Tuesday at the Ramstein Air Base in Germany, US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin offered more words than ammunition to Ukraine to fight the war. He promised that the world's democracies won't let Kiev down, but he was short on specifics—on how much concrete help to offer. Austin also admitted that Moscow has made a series of battlefield gains.

Indeed, it is difficult to predict the House Republicans releasing the funds for Ukraine now that Donald Trump is the only Republican candidate left.

The stalemate puts the onus on the Europeans to do the heavy lifting. But as Wolfgang Münchau, a German editor, wrote this week, “The problem with the

Western alliance on Ukraine is a combination of US reluctance, German red lines and French grandstanding... French support for Ukraine comes mostly in the form of rhetoric—as opposed to direct financial and military assistance. Measured in terms of gross domestic product, France ranks number 28 among Ukraine's supporters.”

Germany is a much bigger supporter of Ukraine, both financially and militarily. But German combat deployment is a red line for Berlin, which also opposes the dispatch of Taurus cruise missiles to Ukraine, fearing that Kiev might use them to hit targets in Russia.

Meanwhile, the big unanswered question for everyone is what the Europeans would do if a Trump-led US administra-

NAAC'S ACCREDITATION SYSTEM NEEDS CHANGE TO BE CREDITABLE

THE National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), in its executive council meeting on January 27, 2024, decided to introduce a binary categorisation of “accredited” or “not accredited” for higher educational institutions, departing from the letter grade system. Further, to encourage institutions to raise their bar, it said accredited institutions could go for higher levels of accreditation. Such institutions would be categorised into two groups under Maturity-Based Graded Accreditation (MBGA).

In this system, those meeting the expected requirements will be classified as ‘Institutions of National Excellence’ and put in levels 1 to 4. Those performing exceedingly well will be placed in level 5, indicating they are ‘Institutions of Global Excellence for Multi-Disciplinary Research and Education’. The binary accreditation system will be introduced in the next four months, and the MBGA is expected to be implemented by December 2024.

The move to streamline the NAAC's accreditation system—hitherto mired in controversies and allegations of irregularities, favouritism and corruption—is welcome. Around the same time in 2023, many higher educational institutions levelled serious charges against the NAAC. To probe into the allegations, Bhushan Patwardhan, the agency's executive council chairman, commissioned a committee headed by JP Singh Joreel, director of the Information and Library Network.

The committee's findings lent credence to the doubts about the NAAC's credibility. It said the agency's IT system was compromised, besides revealing that almost 70 percent of experts from a pool of 4,000 assessors received no opportunity for site visits, whereas some got it multiple times. Another significant finding was that specific individuals without authority had full access to the NAAC's internal system. Patwardhan, frustrated with the state of affairs, resigned on March 5, 2023, alleging his recommendations to rein in corruption were taken lightly by his superiors.

The last nail in the coffin was the auditor general of India's report that chastised the NAAC on several irregularities. For 20 institutions, the points awarded to crucial indicators did not match the actual content of the report. Besides, some institutions were awarded high scores without citing justification. As a result, some got low and others extremely high grades.

JOHN J KENNEDY

Professor and Dean, CHRIST (Deemed) University, Bengaluru

We must scrutinise the new accreditation system in light of this dubious history. Binary accreditation is a simple concept that plainly says whether or not the institution is accredited. As the NAAC says, the aim is to encourage all institutions of higher learning to go for accreditation. According to reports, many institutions have not applied for accreditation because of the fear of obtaining poor results. There could only be two reasons behind this: one, they lack quality; two, they lack faith in the system. It is startling that in February last



EXPRESS PHOTO

The effort to get more higher education institutes accredited is laudable. But audits have established that the NAAC is riddled with corruption and malpractice. Its new system requires urgent changes to foster faith among the institutes and be effective

year, parliament was told 695 universities and 34,734 colleges did not have accreditation. Therefore, the objective to onboard all institutions is laudable, as accreditation will increase the visibility of institutions both within and outside the country.

The question that lingers, however, is regarding the process the NAAC intends to adopt. It says the metrics for both binary and MBGA systems “shall focus on processes, outcomes and impact across attributes of HEIs”, instead of mere input-centric. But what is the mechanism to ensure fairness? How unbiased and trans-

parent will the process be? In the past, NAAC did not even have its own data centre, leading to doubts of changing information after submission. Has this been fixed?

Ignoring these issues and introducing changes is akin to pouring old wine into a new bottle. Good and mediocre institutions will vie for the top rating, with the new MBGA paving the way for corruption. In the old system, the struggle was to acquire an A++ grade; now institutions will eye level 5. Are we dropping the letter system only to replace it with one equally flawed?

A crucial change that the NAAC must implement is the conduct of the peer team's visit during campus assessments. The agency is responsible for cultivating an atmosphere that fosters confidence among faculty, staff and students. While the evaluation process should maintain rigour, simplicity could enhance its effectiveness. In many institutions, fear grips individuals as peer team members adopt investigative roles, occasionally intimidating staff and students. The ambience, at times, is unashamedly unacademic.

On the other hand, institutions also fail to maintain the difference between being hospitable and obsequious. Currently, there is excessive spectacle associated with campus visits. The basic principle to be remembered is the visiting members are academics. Hence, they need to be treated as equals. Even a slight overdose of friendliness can backfire as the members either grow suspicious of the hosts' motives or assume a false sense of superiority.

Finally, the NAAC must select experienced and knowledgeable academics as peer team members. On a recent college visit, a peer member enquired with faculty in the cultural studies department if they had obtained permission from the ministry of culture to run a programme. Although one could forgive this ignorance, treating it as comic relief to an otherwise arduous exercise, it is bound to erode credibility of the evaluation process. These deviations require attention. Otherwise, introducing new systems will be a simplistic remedy to a deep-rooted problem.

(Views are personal)

Democracy is the wholesome and pure air without which a socialist public organisation cannot live a full-blooded life

Mikhail Gorbachev

tion were to withhold support for Ukraine war. There are no easy answers. A tantalising prospect remains, though, that at some point, Europeans may increasingly revert to the old reflex of carving out deals with Russia favourable for the resuscitation of their ailing industry and acceleration of their economic recovery. The worse their economy performs, the greater the temptation will be.

From such a perspective, Modi is positioning himself astutely. According to a Bloomberg report, the India-Ukraine joint commission has been scheduled to meet in New Delhi next week, which will facilitate extensive consultations between the visiting Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba and his Indian counterpart. Significantly, on Wednesday, Modi also called Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who had pulled all stops in resorting to what some would call terrorist methods to disrupt the Russian election. And this happened after a call with Putin earlier in the day, where the Ukraine issue figured.

An incredibly complex scenario is indeed unfolding. The Russian foreign intelligence chief Sergey Naryshkin disclosed on Tuesday inputs to the effect that a French “contingent to be sent to Ukraine is already being prepared. Initially, it will include around 2,000 troops”. He forewarned that the French troops could “become a legitimate priority target for attacks by the Russian armed forces. This means that they will suffer the fate of all the French who have ever come to the Russian world with a sword”. Putin no longer rules out World War III.

France refuted the Russian allegation but French TV is also holding animated discussions about the *modus operandi* of an expeditionary force. True, Modi has an exceptionally warm equation with French president Emmanuel Macron, who had spoken about the deployment of western troops in Ukraine in case of a Russian advance on Odessa. France, historically, has played a strong role in that region and would certainly regard it as a strategic disaster if Russia controlled the entire Black Sea.

To be sure, India finds itself in a trapeze act, insofar as peace talks cannot begin unless the protagonists realise that they have reached the limits of what they can choose to do to change the situation. But then, endgames in wars often appear at such inflection points, given the possibility of some kind of curveball coming at you in the twinkling of an eye, without warning.

(Views are personal)

MAIL BAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Democratic basics

Ref: How not to have an opposition-less India (Mar 21). While yet another victory for the NDA is a foregone possibility, the inevitable collateral damage predicted is not only a ‘Congress-mukt Bharat’, but possibly an opposition-less parliament. A strong opposition is essential for meaningful functioning of a democracy, especially if the ruling party is functioning on a gargantuan majority.

Dr George Jacob, Kochi

Negative attitude

What we need is a constructive opposition, but not one that is hypocritical, opportunistic, chameleonic, unstatesmanly, cohabits with conflicting forces, and compromises the country's larger interests for the sake of vote bank politics. The opposition to the Congress is only because of its negative attitude.

U Atreya Sarma, Hyderabad

Good governance

The party being run by the Gandhi family is not being threatened by Modi, but the ethos of this land. In our ethos, a ruler has to give good governance. Whoever be the rulers, our ethos can survive them. If the Congress could give good governance, we would not have chosen the BJP. It is being decimated as it has worked without any care for constituents so far.

A Rajakumar, email

Negotiate peace

PM Modi's appeal to the presidents of Russia and Ukraine to resolve the ongoing war through dialogue is laudable and a testimony to India's commitment to global peace. Modi should also use his good offices to speak to Israeli President Netanyahu to call off his war against Palestine and stop punishing innocent people the name of annihilating Hamas.

Sudhakar Cherukunnu, Kannur

Evading summons

The reason Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is evading the summons sent to him is not entirely evident. Why doesn't he have the confidence to confront them when his hands are clean? Even if he gets arrested, he may still establish his innocence and receive redress from the court. Leaders must have greater bravery and self-assurance, particularly under trying circumstances.

K Venkatasubramanian, Coimbatore

Climate change

Environment and climate change are sensitive issues these days. Global warming is ravaging the world. Striking a balance between development and environmental protection has become a pressing need. Political parties should include these issues in their electoral process.

Nabhit Panigrahi, Rayagada



Amit Shah @AmitShah
Those opposition leaders whose machines go theated while counting black money and whose vehicles turned too small to carry money are raising questions on the ED.



Kanhaiya Kumar @Kanhaiyakumar
Well, you know that even though '15 lakh has not come in your account, thousands of crores have reached their account.



Sitaram Yechury @SitaramYechury
Multiple are the ways of BJP's political corruption. Looking forward to BJP being forced to transparently declare the accounts of PM/Care.

Govt choking funds to cripple Cong: Sonia

Kharge says defreeze a/cs to ensure a level-playing field in polls; I-T dept notice for FY 1995-96 sent to party

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE Congress on Thursday launched a no-holds-barred attack on the ruling BJP government, accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of carrying out a systematic effort to "financially cripple" the party by freezing its accounts.

Addressing a press conference along with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and former president Rahul Gandhi, Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi held the ruling BJP responsible for the freezing of its accounts ahead of Lok Sabha polls, terming it "unprecedented".

"The issue being taken up today is very, very serious and affects not just the Congress but our democracy itself most fundamentally. A systematic effort is underway by the Prime Minister to cripple the Indian National Congress financially. Funds collected from the public are being frozen, and money from our accounts is being taken away forcibly," she said.

"However, even under these most challenging circumstances, we are doing our best to maintain the effectiveness of our election campaign," she said, adding, "On the one hand, there is the electoral bond issue, which has been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. The electoral bonds have benefitted the BJP



Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi during a press conference at the party headquarters in New Delhi on Thursday | PARVEEN NEGI

hugely. On the other hand, the finances of the principal opposition party, the INC, are under a determined assault."

Addressing the conference, Kharge said that the BJP amassed funds through electoral bonds while freezing the Congress' accounts to create hurdles for it in fighting polls.

"Those in power should not have direct or indirect control over constitutional bodies," he said, adding that constitutional bodies should intervene to allow the Congress to access bank accounts for the sake of free and fair polls in the country. "Defreeze our accounts to ensure a level playing field in polls," Kharge demanded.

Lashing out at the BJP government, Rahul Gandhi said

that the freezing of accounts is a criminal action by the Prime Minister and home minister, asserting that India's democracy currently is a "lie".

He also questioned the silence of constitutional bodies like the courts and election commission over the freezing of accounts of the principal opposition party during general elections. While 20 per cent of India votes for the Congress, it is not in a position to spend even two rupees because of the frozen accounts, he said.

The party received a notice from the I-T department for a financial year as way back as 1995-96, said Gandhi. "...We can do no campaign work... Our ability to fight elections has been damaged," Gandhi said.

Nadda jibe at Rahul, calls him a 'part-time leader'

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

SOON after the Congress accused the government of freezing its accounts, the BJP hit back saying the party "is going to be rejected by the people" and that fearing defeat, its top leadership ranted against Indian democracy and institutions.

In a post on X, BJP chief JP Nadda was the first to dismiss the Congress allegations. "Congress is going to be totally rejected by the people. Fearing a historic defeat, their top leadership ranted against Indian democracy and institutions," Nadda wrote.

"They are conveniently blaming their irrelevance on 'financial troubles'. In reality, their bankruptcy is moral and intellectual, not financial," he said.

Nadda also termed Congress talking about financial helplessness "comical". He said that they instead of correcting their errors, are blaming authorities for their

troubles. "Be it the ITAT or the Delhi HC, they have asked the Congress to comply with the rules, and pay the tax dues, but the party never did so."

Nadda further said that Congress can use the money accumulated from all their scams, from choppers to Bofors, for electioneering.

In a fresh broadside against Rahul Gandhi and others in an apparent reference to their remarks on democracy, Nadda said, "Congress part-time leaders say India being a democracy is a lie — may I humbly remind them that India was not a democracy only for a few months between 1975 and 1977 and that time the Prime Minister of India was none other than Indira Gandhi."

Former law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad also accused Rahul Gandhi of lying on the issue of freezing of accounts. He said such statements show that Congress was desperate due to its fear of losing the elections.



Kharge son-in-law in Cong 3rd list

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE Congress on Thursday released its third list of 57 candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. The prominent among the names include West Bengal Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury from Berhampore seat and Praniti Shinde, daughter of former Union home minister Sushil Kumar Shinde from Maharashtra's Solapur seat. The Congress has so far announced 139 candidates in three lists for the seven-phase Lok Sabha polls beginning April 19.

The states in the list include Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana, West Bengal and Puducherry. In Rajasthan, the party has left the Sikar seat for CPI(M).

As speculated, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's son-in-law Radhakrishna Doddamani will contest from Gulbarga Lok Sabha seat in Karnataka. Other key candidates include former Rajya Sabha MP MV Rajeev Gowda from Bangalore North and Congress Legislative Party leader in the Gujarat Assembly, Amit Chawda from Anand seat.

The Congress' Central Election Committee also discussed candidates for Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. This is the first time that the panel, chaired by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge,



Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Praniti Shinde and Radhakrishna Doddamani

took up discussions on the candidates for the politically crucial Uttar Pradesh.

There is speculation that Rahul Gandhi may also contest from Amethi, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra from Raebareli, a seat which was previously held by Sonia Gandhi. UP Congress chief Ajay Rai, Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Jitu Patwari and J&K unit chief Vikar Rasool Wani were present in the meetings held for their respective states.

In the Berhampore seat, long-time sitting MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury will be facing off Trinamool Congress's candidate and former cricketer Yusuf Pathan. Significantly, the CPI(M)-led Left Front has not announced candidates on these eight seats, indicating an alliance between the Left front and the Congress. Earlier, the Left Front announced 16 seats in the state. The Trinamool Congress has announced candidature on all 42 seats of the state and the

BJP has decided on names of 19 seats. In Purulia, the party has fielded Nepal Mahato and in Birbhum, it has named Milton Rashid. From Jangipur, Mor-taza Hossain, grandson of Congress leader Abdus Sattar will be contesting.

In Rajasthan, out of the six seats announced, Sachin Pilot loyalist Sunil Sharma has been named for the Jaipur seat.

In Maharashtra, where the Congress is part of the MVA alliance, candidates for seven seats have been announced so far. The party has fielded Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, a descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, from Kolhapur and Daryapur MLA Balwant Wankhede from Amravati. In Pune, Congress fielded Ravindra Dhangekar. The party has announced five seats for Telangana and Chevella MP Ranjit Reddy who crossed over to Congress from BRS recently, has been fielded from Chevella.

India should step up growth to 10% for Viksit Bharat goal: Ex-NITI Aayog CEO

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

"THE main challenge before India towards its goal of 'Viksit Bharat' is to accelerate the rate of growth. The country must aim for a 10 per cent growth rate for another three decades," said India's G20 Sherpa and former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant. He was addressing the conference 'The Decan Conversations, Accelerating Our Growth Story', organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (Southern Region) here on Thursday.

"If India grows at a rate of 6 per cent, the economy would grow to \$15 trillion with per capita income of \$3,200 to \$8,875. If it grows at a rate of 8 per cent, the economy would grow to \$23 trillion with per capita income of \$15,000," Kant said, sharing a trajectory for India's economic growth.

People should move from agriculture

"We need to take away people from agriculture. Around 42 per cent of the population is employed in the agriculture sector, which contributes 18-19 per cent of the GDP, while the global average is around 5-6 per cent," said Amitabh Kant. He suggested that people from agriculture should move to manufacturing, and penetrate the global market.

He added that India should not be satisfied with a growth rate of 7 per cent.

Kant went on to explain that if India grows at a rate of 10 per cent, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will surpass \$35 trillion and per capita income will cross \$23,000-24,000.

He also said the country should not grow on the back of the services sector alone, and

that it should be led by manufacturing, smart urbanisation and agriculture.

He said the next phase of growth should be led by the states. "India cannot grow only on the back of the Central government. India will grow if the states grow. Also, it should not be that only the southern states are growing. Growth has to come from all parts - Northern, Eastern and Western. Vigorous reforms should come from the states to carry the next phase of India's story, and states must scrap rules, regulations and procedures," Kant said.

He said India must grow its share of global trade to 5 per cent, and stressed the need to grow manufacturing. "We need thousands more Adanis and Ambanis for our small and medium-sized enterprises to grow," Kant said.

He said AI is fundamental to all businesses, and predicted that it will boost the country's GDP by a trillion dollars.

Fact-check notification stayed by SC

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the Centre's notification setting up a fact-checking unit under the Press Information Bureau, saying its impact on freedom of speech and expression needs to be analysed.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud set aside the March 11 Bombay High Court order refusing an interim stay on setting up of the fact-checking unit under the amended IT Rules to identify fake news targeting the Centre.

The bench said the stay shall operate till the Bombay High Court finally decides the challenge to the IT Amendment Rules, 2023.

"The challenge to the validity of 3(1)(b)(5) (of IT Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code Rules 2021) involves serious constitutional questions and the impact of the rule on free speech and expression would need to be analysed by the high court," the bench said.

The court was hearing a special leave petition by comedian Kunal Kamra and the Editor's Guild of India seeking a stay on setting up of fact-checking unit.

Cong, CPM move EC seeking action against BJP for violation of poll code

PREETHA NAIR & PARVEZ SULTAN
@ New Delhi

THE Congress on Thursday moved the Election Commission (EC) against the BJP government over the alleged misuse of state resources for the poll campaign of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, citing its campaigns such as 'Modi Pariwaar' and 'Modi ki Guarantee'.

The CPM also wrote to the EC seeking "stern action" against the BJP and Prime Minister for engaging school children in an election campaign in Coimbatore in violation of the poll body's directives.

A delegation of Congress leaders, including Mukul Wasnik, Salman Khurshid and Supriya Shrinate met the EC and handed a clutch of complaints about the violations of the model code of conduct for the Lok Sabha polls, demanding immediate action.

In its memorandum, the party lodged a complaint against the BJP's "false advertisements" invoking the 2G allocation issue and alleged that the party was pursuing a decade-old narrative that had been thoroughly discredited through a comprehensive judicial process. The party prayed for the removal of the advertisement and action against its authors and publishers.

Another complaint sought



Students present at the roadshow said that school authorities instructed them to gather at the Sai Baba Colony junction two hours before the (BJP campaign)

K Balakrishnan, CPM secretary, Tamil Nadu

the removal of all images of the PM from government bodies, offices, petrol stations for the duration of the elections as these violate multiple safeguards in the election law.

In a separate complaint, the Congress sought the removal of 'Modi Pariwaar' advertisements, alleging that State resources are being misused for a veiled campaign.

"The brazen use of the armed forces violates multiple directives of the EC. The fact that the Ministry of I&B is being compelled to produce and broadcast the same also needs to be addressed. We seek the removal of the advertisement and action against the guilty

parties," it said.

Another complaint is registered against an unsolicited letter being circulated on social media purportedly from the PM himself. The Congress also demanded action against the BJP's advertisements on the Delhi Metro with the tagline "Modi ki Guarantee" and removal of such advertisements.

Meanwhile, in a letter to the EC on Wednesday, the state secretary of CPIM of Tamil Nadu, K Balakrishnan, said students of a private school were instructed to be present during the PM's roadshow in Vadavalli. He said involvement of children was in violation of the EC's guidelines.

The CPM's complaint stated that students who participated in the election campaign were seen dressed as Hindu deities, donning saffron-coloured cloth strips bearing party symbols at various locations through the roadshow, performing on stages arranged by BJP workers.

"Students present at the roadshow said that school authorities instructed them to gather at the Sai Baba Colony junction two hours before the event. In guidelines issued by your office on February 5, 2024, EC in unequivocal terms has conveyed zero tolerance towards use of children in election-related work or campaign activities," said the letter.

Cash for query case: CBI books Mahua Moitra on Lokpal order

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday registered an FIR against former TMC MP Mahua Moitra in the cash-for-query case, on the directions of Lokpal.

The Lokpal had asked the CBI to register a case against Moitra and probe the matter after receiving findings of the agency's preliminary inquiry into allegations made by BJP Lok Sabha member Nishikant Dubey against her.

The anti-corruption body had directed the CBI to submit its findings in six months before it after investigating all aspects of the complaints against her. The CBI should file monthly reports regarding the status of the investigation, it added.

The TMC leader was disqualified from the Lok Sabha in December last year for alleged "unethical conduct".

meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar along with Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu.

The WhatsApp message from 'Viksit Bharat Sampark' has been making rounds seeking feedback from the people, along with a letter from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The PM has credited the government schemes and programmes for the "transformation that has taken place in the lives of the people."

the poll panel said.

"A compliance report on the matter has been demanded immediately from MeitY," EC said.

The move is part of a series of decisions taken by the poll panel to ensure a level-playing field in the Lok Sabha polls.

The EC said, "This action is a demonstration of the Commission's dedication and promise to uphold fairness and preserve the integrity of the electoral process."

The decision was taken after the commission convened a

SPURIOUS LIQUOR

The death toll due to the suspected consumption of spurious liquor in Punjab's Sangrur has risen to eight, with three more persons succumbing, officials said on Thursday, as police made another arrest



INDIA	Max	Min	Mumbai	Max	Min
Ahmedabad	37	22	Mumbai	33	26
Bhopal	34	20	Panaji	33	24
Jaipur	34	22	Patna	27	21
Amritsar	32	17	Lucknow	31	17
Chennai	31	26	Port Blair	29	27
Kolkata	27	22	Imphal	22	13
Srinagar	12	04	Chandigarh	31	18

MAHARASHTRA

Maha blow to MVA as Ambedkar kin plays hardball

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

IN a blow to Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), Prakash Ambedkar-led Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) is unlikely to be part of the opposition alliance for the Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra.

MVA partners have decided to contest all 48 Lok Sabha seats in the state -- Shiv Sena (UBT) 20 seats, Congress 18 seats and NCP (SP) 10 seats. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said they had offered four seats to Prakash Ambedkar, but he neither accepted nor denied it.

"We tried our best but some of the things were out of our hands. We would have been happy had Ambedkar joined us to fight against the BJP and save democracy and Constitution written by Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar," Raut said.

Earlier, Prakash Ambedkar wrote to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, saying he lost trust in Sharad Pawar-led NCP and Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena and expressing desire to support the Congress in seven



seats. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, VBA got 7 per cent votes. Though it did not win a seat, it was instrumental in the defeat of the Congress and NCP on nine seats.

The Congress has already shortlisted candidates for Akola, and Solapur where Ambedkar had staked claim. In 2019, Ambedkar he contested from Akola, and came third.

A senior NCP (SP) leader said, "Ambedkar does talk big against the BJP, but he was not ready to join the anti-BJP forces like MVA in Maharashtra with unexplained reasons. We tried everything to get him on board, but he never showed interest

to join us." He added, "Since the beginning, Ambedkar put illogical demand for seats and kept writing letters and posting on social media. Alliance talk and seat sharing does not take place on social media. Many things need to be resolved behind the curtain but Ambedkar was not ready for it." A VBA leader said, "MVA never respected us and was not interested in taking us on board."

PUNJAB

In a 1st, SAD to toe 1 family, 1 ticket line, BJP talks on

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

FOR the first time the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) will follow 'one family, one ticket' rule while picking candidates for the Lok Sabha elections, party leaders said.

"Only one person from the Badal family will contest polls. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, sitting MP from Bathinda, is likely to contest. Her husband Sukhbir Singh Badal, the party president and also MP from Ferozepur, is not likely to contest," a party leader said.

Meanwhile Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the BJP is in negotiations with its former partner SAD for an alliance in Punjab.

Speaking at a conclave hosted by a private news channel on Wednesday, Shah said, "Negotiations with Akali Dal are going on. During the negotiations, sometimes they come with an offer and sometimes we give them the offer. We want all old NDA allies to join us. However at the same time, the interest of party workers is to be ensured by getting adequate share

in seats. Things will be clear in two to three days."

Sources in SAD said the bone of contention between the two parties has been the issue of release of Sikh political prisoners (Bandi Singhs) and farmers' demands. SAD wants assurance from the BJP on these issues.

"The core committee meeting of the party will be held on Friday where a decision is expected as many of the party leaders are in favour of the alliance but want commitment from the saffron party on these issues," a party leader said.



Sukhbir is expected to be in Delhi on March 23 after taking a four-day break from the on-going Punjab Bachao Yatra, party leaders said.

Sources in both the parties said negotiations have reached final stages and seat-sharing agreement is being worked out. BJP wants six seats (Amritsar, Patiala, Ludhiana, Hoshiarpur, Anandpur Sahib and Gurdaspur) but SAD wants to give them five seats out of the 13 in Punjab, the sources said.



Ex-BJP MLA joins BSP

Former BJP MLA Narayan Tripathi joined the BSP in Bhopal on Thursday. Shortly after joining the Mayawati-led party, Tripathi was named BSP candidate from Satna LS seat, making the contest there a triangular contest now. The BSP declared six more candidates for seats in MP.



Lal Singh gets huge reception

Hundreds of Congress workers gave a rousing reception to former MP and former minister Lal Singh on his arrival here after rejoining the Congress and expressed confidence that the party will win both the seats in J&K. Singh, 65, who hails from Kathua district, rejoined amid speculations that he will be fielded against BJP minister Jitendra Singh.

J'khand lists after Holi

The Congress will announce names of its candidates for the Lok Sabha polls in Jharkhand after the festival of Holi between March 27 and March 28, a senior party leader said on Thursday. He said allies of the opposition bloc INDIA will announce their candidates separately. The announcement will be made from the Congress headquarters in the national capital, he said.



BON VOYAGE

EX-CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan boards a train in Bhopal for Vidisha district to campaign for Lok Sabha elections | P11

MADHYA PRADESH

Kamal Nath key aide quits Cong...

ANURAG SINGH @ Bhopal

IN perhaps the biggest jolt to former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath in the poll season, the veteran politician's key associate and former MP minister Deepak Saxena quit the Congress party on Thursday.

The development happened just a few hours after Saxena's son Ajay Saxena joined the BJP in Bhopal. It's, however, yet not clear what will be the former minister's next political move, particularly after his son joined the BJP.

Saxena, who is considered one of staunchest Kamal Nath loyalists, had won from Chhindwara assembly seat four times in the past and vacated the seat for Nath, after the latter became the MP CM in December 2018.

In May 2019, Nath had won from the same seat and retained it in the 2023 assembly polls also. After winning from the Chhindwara assembly seat in 2018, Saxena was also appointed pro tem speaker of the state assembly.

RAJASTHAN

... meanwhile, Raje man switches sides

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

IN a major setback for the BJP in Rajasthan, Prahlad Gunjal -- senior leader and staunch supporter of former chief minister Vasundhara Raje -- switched over to the Congress on Thursday.

Gunjal formally joined the Congress in the presence of former CM Ashok Gehlot and state president Govind Singh Dotasra at the Rajasthan state office in Jaipur. He is a prominent Gujar strongman from Kota who is said to have a major influence on the Gujarat voters in the Hadoti region. After Churru's sitting MP and a close Raje loyalist Rahul Kanswa moved over to the Congress a fortnight ago, Gunjal is the second senior leader to do so.

Gunjal's decision follows his disappointment with the BJP for not granting him a ticket. Despite his expectations of receiving one from Kota. Before joining the Congress, he issued a statement saying, "Till date, I have served the common man by staying at the grassroots level. I have served the party but the party did not appreciate my forty years of work."

Cong releases list of 34 candidates for Arunachal polls

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

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in the 2023 assembly polls also. After winning from the Chhindwara assembly seat in 2018, Saxena was also appointed Pro Tem Speaker of the Vidhan Sabha.

Saxena was also a minister in the erstwhile Congress governments headed by Digvijaya Singh in MP between 1993 and 2003. While Saxena quit the Congress, Nath's son and Congress candidate from Chhindwara seat Nakul Nath can-

celled a major part of his poll campaign in MP on Thursday and is believed to have gone to Delhi.

Last month when there was a buzz about Nath and sitting MP son Nakul Nath switching over to the BJP, it was Saxena only, who had claimed that a section of top Congress leadership in Delhi was not treating Nath respectfully since the 2023 assembly polls defeat of the party in MP.

RJD shocks alliance, lists 4 names

Amid an apparent seat-sharing impasse among constituents of grand alliance in Bihar, RJD chief Lalu Prasad on Thursday shocked its coalition partners by announcing names of four candidates for ensuing Lok Sabha election. RJD has fielded state former agriculture minister Kumar Sarjeet from Gaya, Shrivani Kushwaha from Nawada, Abhay Kushwaha from Aurangabad and Archana Bharti from Jamui seats, which is going to polls in first phase on April 19.



Yusuf Pathan hits campaign trail

Former cricketer and TMC candidate Yusuf Pathan hit the campaign trail on Thursday from the Baharampur Lok Sabha seat in West Bengal's Murshidabad district, asserting his readiness to put up a "good fight" in the Congress stronghold. The TMC workers rolled out the red carpet for the former India all-rounder, and he engaged with party workers and activists. He is up against Congress candidate Adhir Chowdhary, a five-term MP from Baharampur.

INDIA suffers setback in UP as key ally decides to part ways with SP

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

CHINKS appeared in the INDI Alliance in Uttar Pradesh a day after Apna Dal (Kamerawadi) announced its candidates for three eastern UP seats, including Phoolpur, Mirzapur and Kausambi, as the Samajwadi Party snapped its ties with the ally which was with it since 2022.

While interacting with media persons here on Thursday, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav announced his party's decision to end its alliance with Apna Dal(K), led by Krishna Patel, wife of prominent Kurmi leader late Sonelal Patel.

"We had joined hands with Apna Dal(K) in the 2022 assembly polls but the alliance is no longer in place," said Akhilesh Yadav. However, within a few hours of deciding to contest three seats and announcing candidates, the Apna Dal(K) got a snub from Yadav who called the decision 'unilateral' and announced a candidate from the Mirzapur seat on Wednesday.

With Thursday's development, Apna Dal(K) becomes the third ally after OP Rajbhar-led Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) and Jayant Chaudhury-led Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), with whom SP could not go along. SP MLC Swami Prasad Maurya has already left the party to float his own political outfit claiming ignorance in the party.



'Cong aware of decision'

While the SP leaders considered the announcement by Apna Dal(K) a move to mount pressure on the INDIA bloc partner for a poll ticket from its quota of 63 seats, the Apna Dal(K) general secretary claimed that the decision was taken after taking Congress into confidence.

Apna Dal(K) is a breakaway faction of Apna Dal which was formed by Sone Lal Patel. After his demise, the party witnessed a vertical split with younger daughter Anupriya Patel heading Apna Dal (Sonelal) and has been a part of the NDA since 2014. The other faction is Apna Dal(K).

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Cong on bumpy road on Haridwar, Nainital seats

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

IN Uttarakhand, the Congress is in a dilemma over finalizing candidates for the Haridwar and Nainital seats.

Due to internal tussles and turmoil within the Congress in Uttarakhand, the names of candidates have not yet been announced for all five seats of the state. Despite continuous deliberations regarding the Nainital and Haridwar seats, no consensus has been reached, even at the party's high command level. Uttarakhand is scheduled to

vote on April 19 in the first phase of the general elections.

While the Congress has announced its candidates for Tehri, Pauri, and Almora, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has already announced its candidates for all five Lok Sabha seats in the state.

Information obtained from confidential sources within the Congress party in Uttarakhand indicates that Yashpal Arya, the Leader of the Opposition in the Uttarakhand assembly, who had initially expressed interest in contesting the Nainital seat,



has now retracted his statement. The party's top leadership is deeply concerned about this development. Sources suggest that Arya's decision may have been influenced by significant pressure from a dominant faction within the BJP. Similarly, Ganesh Godiyal, the designated Congress candidate for the Pauri parliamentary seat, is also facing mounting pressure. Notably, the Maharashtra Income Tax Department issued a summons to Godiyal, mandating his personal appearance on March 22.

While the BJP is preparing to file nominations for all five seats in Uttarakhand, the Congress is still undecided about the candidates for the Haridwar and Nainital seats. Although there was a possibility of declaring candidates for these seats in the meeting of the Central Election Committee of the Congress on Tuesday, the issue was not addressed due to a lack of consensus.

State in-charge Selja Kumari held a meeting with the top leaders of the state, but a decision on the candidates is still pending.

AGE NO BAR

When centurians play decisive roles on Punjab poll pitch

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

A remarkable 5,004 voters aged between 100 and 119 years, with an additional 205 voters surpassing 120 years are in Punjab. There are 4,89,631 first-time voters aged 18-19 years, including 16 transgender voters as of March 1 this year.

Punjab's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sabin C said that in adherence with the directives of the Election Commission of India, voters aged 85 years and above can cast their votes from their homes. This is aimed at facilitating participation, and instructions have been issued to all district election officers-con deputy commissioners.

Sabin C said among the 5,004 voters aged between 100 and 119 years, there are 1,917 male and

2,928 female voters falling within the 100 to 109 years age bracket. There are 59 male and 100 female voters aged 110 to 119 years.

There are voters above 120 years old; 205 of them. The count includes 122 males and 83 females. Ludhiana district hosts the highest number of elderly voters, with 77 men and 34 women above the age of 120 years, followed by Ferozepur district with 24 men and 25 women, he said.

About first-time voters, the CEO reported that as on March 1, 2024, Punjab has 4,89,631 voters aged 18-19, including 16 transgender voters. Of these, 2,93,106 are males and 1,96,515 are females.

Punjab boasts of 2,12,71,246 voters, comprising 1,11,92,959

male voters and 1,00,77,543 female voters. Sabin C has urged voters to exercise their democratic right and participate in the electoral process to achieve the ambitious goal embodied by the slogan 'Is Vaar 70 Paar' in terms of percentage of voting.

Sabin C noted that out of 24,433 polling stations in the state, 2,416 have been identified as critical till now, warranting additional security measures. CCTV installation and centralized monitoring will be implemented across all polling stations.

Efforts will also focus on increasing the voter turnout, particularly at 12,000 polling stations where the turnout was lower than national and state averages in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls so that the objective of voting percentage is achieved.

SENIOR-MOST CITIZENS

As per ECI, voters aged 85 years and above can vote from home

No. of voters aged 100-119 years	1,917 Males	Those aged 100-109 years	205
5,004	2,928 Females	Voters aged 110-119 years	59 Males / 100 Females

205 Voters aged above 120 years	122 Males	83 Females
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- Highest no. of senior-most citizens
- Ludhiana followed by Ferozepur

First-time voters aged 18-19 years 4,89,631 (includes 16 transgender voters)

2,12,71,246 NO. OF VOTERS IN PUNJAB





Regulatory framework in fintech creates compliance challenges: Instamojo

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

OPERATING in the country's fintech and payment sector can indeed be a significant challenge due to the regulatory environment, said Sampad Swain, co-founder and CEO of Instamojo, a D2C (direct-to-consumer) technology platform.

In an interaction with this newspaper, Swain said while the sector offers immense opportunities, navigating through regulatory requirements often requires careful planning and execution.

"The challenges arise from the evolving regulatory landscape, which demands a proactive approach to compliance. The complex and fragmented regulatory framework, with different regulations governing various aspects of fintech operations, creates compliance challenges," the CEO said.

The co-founder of Instamojo, which is backed by Mastercard, also said that despite these challenges, the regulatory environment is gradually evolving to support fintech and payment company's growth.

Last year, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) returned Instamojo's application for a payment aggregator (PA) licence, and it halted operations of its payment gateway business in order to comply with the central bank rules. The RBI said it did not meet the eligibility criteria. Instamojo can reapply for licence and when asked about it, Swain said six months later; they may have a reason to

revisit the RBI to apply for the PAPG license anew, or "we may decide not to pursue this avenue."

The decision is still a work in progress. However, our primary focus remains on leveraging our expertise in bringing more merchants onto our platform and expanding their capabilities, he added.

Post the return of its application, Instamojo has been focusing on the business to get back to being profitable. Last year in terms of business, the company had been EBITDA profitable. "But due to the regulatory issues the business did take a hit. Hence the current focus is to get back on our feet where we were in the pre-licence phase," he further said.

The company's focus and also target market is MSMEs.

"Today almost every other household has somebody in the family trying to start a D2C brand and sell online on various platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and even WhatsApp. We help them build their own identity by starting their own online store and not just be one of the many players in the overcrowded marketplaces," he said.

The company has a few products in pipeline and it will soon be launching the same. "We will continue to work towards building a robust platform for our end users and we look forward to being the only preferred partner for anybody who wants to start a business online. There is a lot to do in this space and as of now we feel we have just seen the tip of the iceberg," he added.

Sebi to launch T+0 trade settlement with 25 scrips

Under this new system, trades will be settled on the same day

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE SETTLEMENT CYCLE

T+0 settlement will be only for trades executed between 09:15 a.m. and 01:45 p.m

Beta version of the T+0 settlement cycle to start on **MARCH 28**

Beta launch will initially include 25 stocks and a limited number of brokers

Surveillance measures as applicable in T+1 settlement cycle will be applicable to scrips in T+0 settlement cycle



Regulator believes a shortened settlement cycle will bring cost and time efficiency, transparency in charges to investors and strengthen risk management at clearing corporations and the overall securities market ecosystem



has the ability to effect immediate transfer of securities and also India's payments and settlements ecosystem has long allowed for real time transfer of funds," said Sebi in a circular on Thursday.

The regulator believes a shortened settlement cycle will bring cost and time efficiency, transparency in charges to investors and strengthen risk management at clearing corporations and the overall securities market ecosystem.

To ensure smooth implementation, the MIs will have pub-

lish operational guidelines (including mechanism for trading, clearing and settlement, risk management, etc.) and

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) along with the list of 25 scrips for the Beta version of T+0 settlement cycle and disseminate the same on their respective websites.

The surveillance measures as applicable in T+1 settlement cycle will be applicable to scrips in T+0 settlement cycle. The timings for one continuous trading session has been kept from 09:15 AM to 1:30 PM.

Coal imports see modest rise of 1.65% during Apr-Jan period

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE country's coal imports witnessed a modest rise of 1.65% during April-January period of current financial year (FY24) as against the same period in the previous year (FY23), according to data compiled by Mjunction Services Ltd, a B2B e-commerce platform.

Total imports reached 212.24 million tonne (MT) in FY24. The data also showed there was a slight shift in the types of coal

imported. Imports of non-coking coal, primarily used for power generation, dipped marginally to 136.47 MT in FY24 compared to 136.90 MT in FY23. Conversely, imports of coking coal, used in steel production, rose to 47.32 MT in FY24 from 46.09 MT in FY23.

This trend continued in January 2024. Total coal imports through major and non-major ports reached 19.81 MT in January 2024, up from 16.97 MT in January 2023. Similarly, non-

coking coal imports increased to 12.10 MT in January 2024 from 10.01 MT in January 2023. However, coking coal imports dipped slightly to 4.50 MT in January 2024 compared to 4.74 MT in January 2023.

"India's demand for imported coal has softened in recent weeks," said Vinaya Varma, MD and CEO of Mjunction Services. "We anticipate this trend to persist in March due to ample

domestic coal availability at mine sites and power plants."

Provisional government data reveals India's domestic coal output has increased. During this period, production climbed to 784.11 MT, as against 698.99 MT in the corresponding period of FY23.

The Mjunction Services Limited kicked off its two-day 17th Indian Coal Markets Conference at Taj Bengal in Kolkata

today. The conference discussed key issues facing the energy and coal sectors amidst global geopolitical crises and the drive towards emission control and decarbonisation. Amrit Lal Meena, secretary, coal ministry, stated, "Coal consumption in India will continue to grow for many years but will peak by 2040. We are now witnessing many private sector companies undertaking underground (UG) mines in commercial coal mine auctions."

Schneider commits ₹3.2K cr investment in India

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE @ Bengaluru

FRENCH multinational Schneider Electric, which specialises in digital automation and energy management, has committed to invest Rs 3,200 crore in India by 2026 in a bid to expand its presence in the country's market, which will not only drive its domestic operations, but also help it respond to global opportunities.

As part of this road map, the company inaugurated a Rs 100-crore cooling facility in the city on Thursday. Covering about 6.5 acres, the new state-of-the-art facility will focus on developing innovative cooling solutions to meet exponential demand for the country's data centre ecosystem. Fully owned by Schneider, it will cater to both domestic and international markets. The facility incorporates cutting-edge technology, enabling it to manufacture cool-

ing products and solutions tailored for telecom, commercial, and industrial applications, apart from its core target segment — data centres. The products that will roll out from here include, Latest generation in row cooling systems, High-efficiency chillers, and Primary Air Handling Unit (PAHU), Precision Air Conditioning (PAC), FAN-WELL systems.

India, which has made significant strides in IT, connectivity, and digitisation, is emerging as a hub for data centres. According to Cushman & Wakefield, India's data centre capability is set to exceed the 1-GW mark in 2024, with expectations of it touching 3 GW in the next five years, calling for integration of efficient, sustainable energy management systems. "The data centre business is currently facing numerous challenges,

with the foremost being data volatility. Buoyed by the high growth in AI, the demand for data processing is seeing an uptick, leading to increased demand for cooling solutions," said Schneider Electric EVP (Secure Power Division & Data Center Business) Pankaj Sharma, reiterating that the facility will not only address the cooling requirements of high-density computing environments, but also contribute to building resilient and sustainable data centre infrastructure.

India as a hub

India is one of the four hubs of the Schneider group, the others being France, USA and China. Today, the country hosts ~6,000 R&D digital software engineers, out of a total 37,000 staff. "A hub means that we are an empowered team that can design and

manufacture products for the local market," said Schneider Electric India Zone President (Greater India) and MD & CEO Deepak Sharma.

"Once we grow as a hub, our next responsibility is to help other countries, which have environments very similar to ours. That's where India is becoming an export base for countries in the Middle East, Asia-Pacific, Africa, etc."

Accordingly, 85% of the products manufactured in the new cooling facility will be shipped to export markets, enabling it to play a crucial role in the company's global supply chain.

"India is a significant market for us. We are set to invest Rs 3,200 crore by 2026 to expand our presence in the country. The new factory, a part of that commitment, will go beyond manufacturing, creating jobs in Karnataka and fostering growth of the local economy," the CEO said.

India's economy to surpass Germany, Japan in 5 yrs: Kant

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIA will surpass Japan and Germany to emerge as the third-largest economy and also the third-largest stock market in the world in the next five years, the country's G20 Sherpa and former NITI Aayog CEO, Amitabh Kant said on Thursday.

Speaking at a conference on "The Deccan Conversations, Accelerating Our Growth Story", organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (Southern Region), he said India has been growing in the last three quarters at 8.3% plus during this period.

Quoting the IMF, Kant said India will be contributing close to 20% of the world's economic expansion in next decade and South is engine of India's

growth story for the country to be a \$35 trillion economy by 2047. "India needs to improve learning outcomes and skills to ensure India provides 30 per cent of the skilled manpower globally by 2047, focus on creating a large number of large companies in India to create an ecosystem for MSMEs and SMEs to thrive and increase its R&D spending from 0.7 per cent to at least 2.5-3% of GDP," Kant said. "For India to have accelerated the pace of growth that we are currently witnessing, we brought in a goods and services tax that is paying us rich dividends. Secondly, we brought in the insolvency and bankruptcy code, thirdly, the Real Estate Regulation Act has led to discipline in the real estate sector of India," he said.

GUIDANCE

Accenture lowers FY24 earnings forecast



ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

IT services provider Accenture on Thursday cut its FY24 revenue forecast as clients curb spending on consulting services due to economic uncertainty. It now expects full-year revenue growth of 1% to 3% from its earlier forecast of 2% to 5%.

The company reported revenues for the second quarter (December-February) of FY24 at \$15.80 billion, compared with \$15.81 billion for the same period last year. Revenues were slightly above the midpoint of the company's guided range of \$15.40 billion to \$16.00 billion.

Its GAAP operating income was \$2.05 billion, compared to \$1.94 billion for the second quarter of fiscal 2023, and operating margin was 13.0% compared to 12.3% for the second quarter last year. Julie Sweet, chair and CEO, Accenture, said, "In an uncertain macro environment, we remain the trusted partner to our clients for reinvention with a record 39 clients with quarterly bookings of over \$100 million. We also extended our early lead in generative AI with \$1.1 billion in new bookings in the first half of the year." "We are investing to serve the needs of our clients and expand our growth opportunities with \$2.9 billion of capital deployed in the first half in strategic acquisitions," she added.

EXPRESS READ

TCS inks deal with Denmark's Ramboll

Bengaluru: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has signed a multimillion-dollar partnership to carry out the IT transformation of Denmark's Ramboll. Over the next seven years, the IT firm will modernise and streamline Ramboll's IT operating model to drive business growth and optimise IT cost base. It didn't disclose size of the deal but said will deliver services to manage Ramboll's cloud and data centres, application development and maintenance, Cyber Security and Digital Workplace. Thomas Angelus, senior group director, chief information officer, Ramboll, said, "We are thrilled to have chosen TCS, an expert in large-scale complex digital transformations, for this global project."

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

THE launch of a rocket from the country's first privately-owned launchpad has been postponed due to a technical issue, the company said on Thursday.

On Friday, Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited's Agnibaan was slated to launch from the company-owned launchpad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) located inside Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) facility at Sriharikota.

"Agnikul is holding the launch out of an abundance of caution based on certain minor observations from the full countdown rehearsals last night," it said in a statement. The company will announce a new date and time for the

launch. The IIT-Madras incubated start-up is 3-D printing its space vehicle - Agnibaan, with single piece 3D-printed engine. This launch, Sub Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SOTeD), was aimed at testing technical capabilities. It is building custom launch vehicles for small and nano satellites to low earth orbits (LEO) called Agnibaan. This was planned as the first launch from its spaceport, following which the company will start commercial operations.

This would have been a significant feat for the private space companies in India after opening up and liberalisation of the sector, previously restricted only to the premier space research agency, ISRO. Apart from being the first private launchpad, it would have

been India's first semi-cryogenic engine powered rocket launch and world's first single piece 3D printed engine, according to claims of the company.

The start-up has so far raised \$41 million in four rounds. As the demand for small satellite launches increases, Agnikul focuses on-demand launches for small satellites. Market for smaller sats are growing at 17.3% CAGR and may touch \$9 billion by 2030, according to various market research reports.

Applications of these are primarily in the communication and earth observation with scores of companies eyes launched for direct telecommunication like sat phones, internet of things (IoT) applications and imaging.



Agnikul is holding the launch out of an abundance of caution based on certain minor observations from the full countdown rehearsals last night - Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited

Dhoni makes massive call to hand over CSK captaincy to young opener, a move made after much deliberation according to coach Fleming



14

MS Dhoni has captained CSK in 14 seasons (2022 partially) before handing over the responsibility to Ruturaj Gaikwad

TODAY'S MATCH
Chennai Super Kings vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Chennai

Live on Star Sports and JioCinema, 8 PM

Former CSK captain MS Dhoni with his successor Ruturaj Gaikwad | ASHWIN PRASATH

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

BY the time you read this, the Sun would have risen on Friday morning. On Thursday evening, though, as the shadows began to lengthen inside the MA Chidambaram Stadium, the Sun, at some level, permanently set in this part of the city. MS Dhoni, one of the most successful T20 franchise captains ever (seven Cups), stepped down from the post effective immediately.

It's understood that Chennai Super Kings broke the news to the squad only on the eve of the new season. Dhoni had of course decided to make way for Ravindra Jadeja two years ago but returned to skipper the side half-way through that car crash of a campaign. He stayed on at the helm in 2023, leading the squad to a fifth Indian Premier League (IPL) title in a dramatic final that went to a third day. While the 42-year-old is fit and fresh after undergoing knee surgery

days after the final last year, this change had been in the post for some time. The side splurged on Ben Stokes last year with a view to him taking over the reins in the future. But they have plumped for Ruturaj Gaikwad, a player the franchise has a lot of time for (it's believed that the new captain himself hasn't had time to soak it in). While the ultimate call was made by MS, Gaikwad had been groomed for the role. "It was MS," coach Stephen Fleming said. "Behind the scenes, Rutu and the others have been on a, say, captaincy grooming process. MS is the best judge and he felt the time was right." After that unsuccessful 2022 season, CSK, according to Fleming, worked extensively to ensure they didn't repeat the same mistakes. "The big thing about a couple of years ago was that we probably weren't ready for MS to move aside," Fleming admitted. "What that did was probably shake us as a leadership group or as

coaches into looking at the possibility when he does go. Till that stage, it was almost unthinkable but it sowed the seed."

The 50-year-old admitted that the management reacted slowly the last time this happened. "We have been working very hard on making sure that the plans are in place and all players are self-sufficient," the southpaw pointed out. "And we are. One of the things we are proud of is the development of young players... it's not just the captain's job to pull the strings. So, we are looking at that. And as I say, we are more prepared now because they jolted us into looking at life after."

Once Dhoni decided it was time to step away as captain — Fleming had no doubt that Dhoni would finish the season as a player — Gaikwad was a logical choice. Since joining the franchise at the 2019 auction, the management has invested time, money and shown an unusual

amount of patience with him.

They bagged him for ₹20 lakh ahead of the 2019 IPL. In that 2019 season, though, he didn't feature in a single game. After recovering from a bout of Covid-19, Gaikwad's debut in 2020 came in the middle-order where he was dismissed for a first-ball against Rajasthan Royals. A middling campaign saw him score 204 runs @ 120.7. The then uncapped Indian player could have been released and nobody would have done a double take. But they wanted to persevere, preferring to release a couple of seasoned campaigners instead. That educated gamble paid off in 2021 when the Maharashtrian topped the IPL run-scoring charts with 635 runs. The decision to retain him for ₹6 crore ahead of the mega auction was a no-brainer. Of course, captaining a T20 side is a high-pressure gig. This is where Fleming's role in the captaincy grooming process played a role. "I have enjoyed talking captaincy and leader-

ship not just with Rutu but also the others," he said. "It's part of the two months that we enjoy. We are proud of what he has done."

The 'proud of' what he has done could have been about several things, including skipping a young Indian side to gold at last year's Asian Games. It also speaks of what the BCCI thinks about Gaikwad's leadership skills (he was also the deputy to Jasprit Bumrah in the Ireland series last year).

After 14 seasons and nearly 250 IPL matches, a metaphorical white smoke emerged from the MA Chidambaram Stadium. The conclave has dispersed. The cardinals have elected a new leader. The last time it happened in this franchise, it lasted less than two months. The immediate task for Gaikwad is to ensure he navigates this season without a hiccup.

That will be a good starting block towards filling Dhoni's giant shoes. ww

Battle of heavyweights: Can RCB's batting might conquer Chepauk?

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

AS Chennai Super Kings' captaincy transfer from MS Dhoni to Ruturaj Gaikwad remains the biggest talking point, a cracking contest awaits in the opening game of the 2024 Indian Premier League between the home team and Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai on Friday.

The defending champions have an edge over RCB as they have an all-round side that has batting depth and variety in its attack. On the other hand, RCB is heavily dependent upon their batters to post good totals regularly. It all might come down to the contest between RCB batters and CSK bowling.

CSK has always managed its bowling resources well, thanks to Dhoni's wisdom. Deepak Chahar, Tushar Deshpande, Simarjeet Singh and Mukesh Choudhary are all capable of delivering. Moeen Ali, Mustafizur Rahman and injured Math-

eesha Pathirana too are capable of troubling the best batters in the tournament, not to forget the experienced Ravindra Jadeja.

One area that CSK needs to improve is their death bowling. "It's (death bowling) always an important aspect of the IPL, to be able to bowl well at the death. We did it very well last year, considering a lot of the main bowlers were injured. Through that, we were able to bring and develop some players through. So, right now, apart from Mustafizur who's just coming back from injury, we've got a really healthy stable of fast bowlers to choose from and that's one of our challenges. Last year, we were struggling to get players fit enough to play. This year, we've got some good decisions to make," said Stephen Fleming, head coach of CSK.

"So, yeah, depth bowling is part of it, but I think the way the game has gone with the im-

pact player, it almost feels like the whole 20 overs has got a depth aspect to it. So, defensive bowling will be certainly a key part of this tournament," he added.

RCB will depend heavily upon Virat Kohli, Faf du Plessis and Glenn Maxwell and new recruit Cameron Green to put runs on the board and give some cushion for their bowlers to press for a win.

Although Kohli is coming after a paternal break he has the ability to straight away get back into form. "Virat is a class player. He has the experience to get into his groove once he starts playing as he knows his game well. He knows the process of how to get back to his best after a break," said former Australian great Glenn McGrath.

So it all boils down to the teams that bats first, and puts runs on the board and applies pressure later on. Toss could be vital as the strip for the match on Friday looks good to bat upon.

RETURNING STARS

JASPRIT BUMRAH and Rishabh Pant are coming back to the league after more than a year. With Bumrah, it will be about getting game time and managing workload as he has been playing Tests and ODIs since Asia Cup last year. Then there is Rishabh, who will be making a comeback to competitive cricket after suffering a life-threatening car accident. They are likely to be closely monitored for they are in scheme of things for the global event.

KOHLI, THE BATTER

LET'S make it clear. Virat Kohli is still in the scheme of things for the T20 World Cup. Coming in after parental break, Kohli would be itching to get back on the field and make some runs for Royal Challengers Bengaluru. And what better way to do it than light up the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Friday against Chennai. Kohli's form will be crucial not just for RCB, but also how the selectors look to put together the squad for the T20 World Cup.

INJURY COMEBACKS

K.L. RAHUL is returning from an injury, and so is Shreyas Iyer and Hardik Pandya. Although Iyer, at the moment,



Spotlight on premier stars

AS THE 2024 IPL BEGINS ON FRIDAY, A LOOK AT SOME OF THE INDIANS WHO'LL BE IN FOCUS AHEAD OF THE T20 WORLD CUP...

might not necessarily make the full-strength squad, he will look to make a mark after missing last season. Rahul would want to prove himself in the middle-order then there is Pandya, India white-ball vice-captain, who has a point to prove as an all-rounder as well as captain of

Mumbai Indians.

BUMRAH'S SUPPORT CAST

ALTHOUGH he last played a T20I in August, Bumrah is still the first name in the bowling attack. While the spinners have their own pool, the selectors and Indian team

management will keep a close eye on the pacers. Yes, Arshdeep Singh is there, but India will need at least two-three more pacers and every single one in the league, including someone like Bhuvneshwar Kumar, will be trying to throw their hat in the ring.

SPINNERS GALORE

RAVINDRA JADEJA, Ravichandran Ashwin, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Washington Sundar — perhaps the top six names when it comes to spinners in the IPL this season. Of course not all can travel with the Indian team. Which is why, all six, and Yuzvendra Chahal, would want to make a match and tournament-winning impact for their respective teams.

FINDING KEEPERS

AT the moment, Jitesh Sharma is India's first-choice T20I keeper. But nothing is guaranteed with all the others competing for the same spot. Pant is back, Rahul batting in middle-order and then there is Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson and Dhruv Jurel. Who will be first choice, who will be backup, it all will come down to their display in the next month or so.

Appoint administrator to run WFI: Wrestlers

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

CONTINUING their legal battle against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), the protesting wrestlers, including Tokyo Olympic bronze medalist Bajrang Punia, filed an urgent application in the High Court of Delhi praying for an appointment of a one-man committee/administrator to take over the management, control and administration of the federation. The applicants prayed that a retired Supreme Court Judge or the Judge of the Delhi High Court should be preferred for the responsibility. It is learnt that the urgent application has been accepted and will be heard on Friday.

Earlier, the wrestlers, also including multiple World Championships medalist Vinesh

Phogat, Rio Olympic medalist Sakshi Malik and her husband Satyawart Kadian, had filed a writ petition in the court. The court, while hearing the petition on March 7, directed that parallel selection trials should not be held. It directed that the trials scheduled to pick national teams for the Asian Championships and Asian Olympic Games Qualifier should proceed as per the circular issued by the IOA's ad-hoc committee for med to run the affairs of the WFI. During the hearing, the WFI withdrew its circular to hold the trials. The court then fixed April 26 as the next date of the hearing.

Both Bajrang and Vinesh competed in the trials held on March 10 and 11. Bajrang lost the 65kg semifinal bout thus failing to make it to the national

IOC SUPPORTS LIFTING OF WFI'S SUSPENSION

International Olympic Committee on WFI's status told this daily, "The IOC supports United World Wrestling (UWW) as the competent international federation to address the governance of the sport of wrestling in India and, in particular, of the Wrestling Federation of India. We understand that the Wrestling Federation of India has been reinstated recently by UWW and that the 'ad-hoc committee' which was created by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) was formally dissolved by letter dated 18 March 2024, in line with the UWW position."

squad. Competing in two weight categories (50kg and 53kg), Vinesh topped the trials in the first and finished with bronze in the latter division. She made it to the Indian squad by virtue of her win in the 50kg.

The wrestlers in the urgent application questioned United World Wrestling's (UWW) order dated March 8 wherein it stated that only the WFI can register athletes for international competitions being organised by the world body. The

applicants alleged that the issuance of the letter dated March 8, 2024 "is a pre-mediated step undertaken by Respondent No. 2 (WFI) using officials and close aides of erstwhile president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh."

"The applicants place their averment on information received through reliable sources that one such official, Mr. Bholanath Singh was facilitating the alleged correspondence with UWW Officials on behalf of its erstwhile president Brij

Bhushan Sharan Singh and incumbent president Sanjay Singh. His presence in the UWW Office (on March 7 when the court was hearing the matter) was more than a mere coincidence. There are ample evidences on record to establish Mr. Bholanath Singh's close and long standing association with Respondent No. 2 / WFI and its erstwhile president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh," read the application. It has also been prayed to direct the Union of India (respondent No 1) not to revoke the suspension of the WFI during the pendency of the writ petition. The wrestlers also questioned the decision of the IOA to dissolve the ad-hoc panel on March 18 thus giving full administrative control of the WFI to the Sanjay Kumar Singh-led panel.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Mission Paris: IOA puts athletes-first approach

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

WHAT seems like a radical step towards athletes-first approach, the Indian Olympic Association has announced an Olympic and multiple World Championships medalist as chief of mission. Deviating from the norm, the IOA has announced MC Mary Kom, London Olympic bronze medalist, as the chief of mission for the Paris Olympic Games. Mary Kom will be assisted by Shiva Keshavan, six-time Winter Olympian at the July 26-August 11 Games.

The IOA has chosen a blend of experience, expertise and leadership that will contribute significantly to the success of our athletes on the global stage. The IOA, again deviating from the usual, has announced the flag bearer well in advance. The honour would be table tennis veteran Sharath Kamal's, who will be at his fifth Olympics. Keeping in mind his contribution to Indian sports, the IOA Athletes Commission vice chairperson has already qualified for the Olympics. An-

other Olympic and World Championships medalist in shooting, Gagan Narang, will oversee the preparations at the shooting venue, Chateauroux. According to IOA, Narang is a respected figure in Indian sports and "his meticulous approach and understanding of athletes' needs will ensure a conducive environment for our shooters."

Apart from the athletes, the name that seems to have come as a welcome surprise is that of country's top sports medicine specialist and a joint orthopaedic surgeon Dinshaw Pardiwalla, who has been treating almost all star sportspersons, has been appointed as the Chief Medical Officer.

The IOA president, PT Usha, said, "We are delighted to have such a distinguished and capable team of officials leading our contingent for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Their expertise, dedication and passion for sports will undoubtedly inspire our athletes to achieve their best and make the nation proud."

Calicut crowned Prime Volleyball League champs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

CALICUT Heroes stunned the Delhi Toofans in the final of the third season of the Prime Volleyball League, picking a 15-13, 15-10, 13-15, 15-12 win at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium on Thursday to lift their maiden trophy.

Delhi defence began well, cancelling out Calicut's aggressive attacks. Lazar Dodic and Santhosh showcased their attacking prowess, but a series of serve errors from Delhi allowed Calicut to cover the deficit. In the fourth set, Jerome Vinith



Calicut team with the Prime Volleyball League Trophy | D SAMPATHKUMAR

cancelled out Delhi's defence and Calicut picked up a mammoth win.

HI borrowed Arsenal playbook

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

DURING the 2021-22 Premier League season, Mikel Arteta came up with a different idea to tackle the challenge of playing Liverpool in front of the Kop. To get used to the wall of noise — chants of 'You Will Never Walk Alone' specifically — the Arsenal manager set up speakers on the sides of the pitch during a training session.

This was designed to get the players used to the atmosphere (Anfield is considered as a very tough place to visit because of the din the crowd creates). The Indian hockey team did a similar experiment ahead of the last batch of Pro League games. "We

did it for Pro League preparation at training obviously due to the packed and noisy crowds in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela," men's coach Craig Fulton told this daily on Thursday. While the South African didn't say if they would recreate this experiment before the Olympics, the next training block will be at SAI, Bengaluru. "We will be back in SAI Bengaluru for next training camp so no Stadium presence," he said. "Let's see what we will need." But he had spoken about the prospect of more training sessions with amped up crowd noise via loudspeakers. "He was saying that he is thinking to bring in the noise and make more noise for us,"

Manpreet Singh said in an interview to this daily on Thursday. ("I don't know) when but he was planning to do it. We haven't spoken about it (after that). To be honest, his thinking is wild."

There is of course a connection between crowd noise and Indian hockey. Fulton had addressed that issue in an interaction with this daily during the Pro League in Rourkela. "If we had an empty Stadium and we played that game (he was referencing the Australia game where India lost 4-6 in Bhubaneswar in February), I think we would have had a different result," he had said.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

Treesa-Gayatri win, Tanisha-Ashwini lose

BASEL: India's Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand progressed to the quarterfinals of the Swiss Open with a straight-game (21-10, 21-12) win over Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra. Later, Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa lost 17-21, 16-21 to Rui Hirokami and Yuna Kato.

Murray beats dizzy Berrettini in Miami Open

MIAMI: Two-time Miami Open champion Andy Murray fought back for a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 win over Italian Matteo Berrettini in the first round on Wednesday. Berrettini needed medical attention near the end of the second set after appearing to almost faint on court but he battled on.



Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang delivers a keynote address during the Nvidia GTC Artificial Intelligence Conference at SAP Center in San Jose, California | AFP

GTC2024: FROM AI CHIPS TO HUMANOID ROBOTS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

EVERY year, Nvidia GTC (GPU Technology Conference) generates great interest among developers, researchers, and IT professionals as the conference witnesses informative discussions on the latest tech advancements and trends by experts. Over the past 15 years, GTC has grown to be the world's most important AI conference.

This year, the conference was held between March 18 and 21 at San Jose, California, and the excitement was around 6G, intelligent robots, among others.

Takeaways from GTC

In his keynote address, Nvidia founder and CEO Jensen Huang, who unveiled high-speed AI graphics processors called Blackwell, NIM microservices, and Omniverse Cloud APIs, said accelerated computing has reached a tipping point and that general-purpose computing has run out of steam. "We need another way of doing

computing; so that we can continue to drive down the cost of computing; so that we can continue to consume more and more computing while being sustainable. Accelerated computing is a dramatic speedup over general-purpose computing, in every single industry," he said.

Huang announced Project GR00T, a general-purpose foundation model for humanoid robots. At GTC, he brought on stage a pair of diminutive Nvidia-powered robots from

Disney Research. "The soul of Nvidia - the intersection of computer graphics, physics, and artificial intelligence... It all came to bear at this moment," he said.

Blackwell enables organisations everywhere to build and run real-time generative AI on trillion-parameter large language models at up to 25x less cost and energy consumption than its predecessor. The company also announced a 6G research platform, which is open, flexible and interconnected, offering researchers a compre-

hensive suite to advance AI for radio access network (RAN) technology. The platform allows organisations to accelerate the development of 6G technologies that will connect trillions of devices with the cloud infrastructures.

"The future convergence of 6G and AI holds the promise of a transformative technological landscape," said Charlie Zang, senior vice-president of Samsung Research America. "This will bring seamless connectivity and intelligent systems that will redefine our interactions with the digital world, ushering in an era of unparalleled innovation and connectivity," he said.

From generative AI to robotics to automotive, the latest autonomous vehicle technology, GTC 2024 had it all. Many leading automotive and robotics companies showcased next-generation vehicles and autonomous machines at the event.

Twenty-five robots ranging from humanoids to industrial manipulators were displayed at the conference. Also, leading

AI application developers across a wide range of industries are using the company's digital human technologies to create lifelike avatars for commercial applications and dynamic game characters.

Experts also spoke about the rise of multi-modal AI, which can process diverse data types handled by different models.

At GTC, the company inked various partnerships. Microsoft is expanding its collaboration with Nvidia to bring the power of generative AI, the cloud and accelerated computing to healthcare and life sciences organisations.

"The convergence of AI, cloud computing and healthcare is set to transform patient care," said Kimberly Powell, vice-president of healthcare at Nvidia. The expanded collaboration will extend opportunities for healthcare providers, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, and medical device developers to innovate rapidly across clinical research, drug discovery and care delivery.



APPLE GOOGLES FOR AI BOOST IN IPHONES

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

In an interesting development, rival big tech firms Apple and Google are looking to collaborate on the latest innovation in the artificial intelligence space. According to reports, the iPhone maker is in talks to integrate Google's Gemini artificial intelligence engine into iPhones, potentially making the upcoming iPhone 16 the first device to witness this development. Notably, Apple had recently held discussions with OpenAI as well. Tim Cook, Apple's chief executive, has promised investors that the company will introduce new generative A.I. capabilities this year. Moreover, other mobile makers such as Samsung have already added AI to their latest devices.

Apple uses Google search

For recall, Apple has been using Google's search engine as the default option in the Safari web browser on the iPhone. For this, Google has been paying a hefty amount (36% of search advertising revenue generated via Safari) to Apple. Also, when Apple introduced the iPhone in 2007, Google initially provided Google Maps for navigation and later struck a deal to become the default search engine on the iPhone's Safari browser. The two parties haven't decided the terms or branding of an AI agreement or finalised how it would be implemented.



Win-win deal

The search giant Google has been lagging in the race to develop AI compared to OpenAI ChatGPT. The advantage of ChatGPT was that it was the first mover and attracted users from all over the world. However, Google, which first came up with the A.I. chatbot Bard, debuted to middling reviews last March and struggled to attract as many users as ChatGPT. Then in February 2024, Google debuted a new chatbot, Gemini. It also faced criticism as users found that its image generator produced illustrations of historical figures that were not racially accurate and refused in most instances to generate images of white people, leading to accusations of bias. Subsequently, Google had to disable the ability to create images of people and vowed to fix the problem. Meanwhile, ChatGPT was gaining subscribers day by day.

Therefore, Apple's selection of Google as an A.I. supplier will bring confidence to Google and increase its user base too. The advantage is not less for Apple either. For the past few launches, Apple, known for innovation, failed to make any worthy innovation in its iPhones. Therefore, incorporating AI features in its upcoming devices will give a big boost to its devices and innovation. The company this time doesn't want to be left behind by its rival Samsung, as they have already included AI features to edit videos and summarise audio recording in their latest flagship Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients intend to purchase the schedule mentioned property from Smt. Dipthi Patel, Smt. Neena Patel and others for a valuable consideration. The above said owners represent that they are the absolute owners in possession of the schedule mentioned property and that they acquired the same from their father Late. Natubhai Magan Bhai Patel @ N.M. Patel.

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All that piece and parcel of property bearing Old Sy. No.3, New Sy. No. 3/2, Sy. No. 3/1A and Sy. No. 4/2, measuring to an extent of 73,264 Square Feet, situated at Pantharapalya Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, and being bounded on

East by : Vrushabhavathi River (Nala)

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H.M. DIVAKARA, Advocate

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E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, **The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.**, the constructive/physical (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.**, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 11.04.2024, for recovery of Rs.1,41,61,434.61/- (Rupees One Crore Forty One Lakhs Sixty One Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Four and Paise Sixty One only) due to "The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.", Secured Creditor from 1. Mrs. N. Ramya D/o. Mr. Sri Nagaraj Residing at No.7, 8th A Cross, Near Ganesha Temple, BTM 2nd Stage, N S Palya, Bilekahalli, Bangalore-560076. The reserve price will be Rs.74,00,000/- (Rupees Seventy Four Lakhs only) and the earnest money deposit will be Rs.7,40,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Forty Thousand only).

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and Parcel of Residential Building bearing Flat No. 202 (3 BHK), 1st Floor, East Facing with Super Built up area of 1500.00 Sq in the Apartment building known as "Devi Grand View", together having with 279 Sqft of UDS Site No.19 and 20, old Katha No. 24/1 & 24/2, then BBMP Katha No.998/24/1/19 and No.987/38/24/1/24/2/20, present BBMP Khata No.998/24/1/24/2/19 & 20. It Situated at Sarakkikere Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South taluk- 560 077, presently comes within the limits of BBMP Puttenahalli ward No.187, Sarakkikere. Bounded on the East: Corridor, West: Road, North: Flat No. 201, South: Private Property.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in our Bank's Secured Creditor's website i.e., www.kvb.co.in/Property Under Auction also at the web portal BankAuctions.in/ForeclosureIndia.com of the service provider, M/s. 4 closure.

Statutory 15 days' Notice under Rule 9(1) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002

The borrower/s and guarantor/s are hereby notified to pay the dues as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-Auction, failing which the Schedule property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date : 20.03.2024
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorized Officer
THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED

HDFC BANK
HDFC Bank Ltd., Ground Floor, Rashtrapati Bhavan, Municipal No. 3/1, Ward No.77, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore - 560001.
ANNEXURE-VI
(FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Possession Notice

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the HDFC Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 13-Sep-2023 calling upon the borrowers 1) National Steel, Rep by its Proprietor Mr. Saalim Ahamed Khan 2) B. S. Saalim Ahamed Khan, 3) B. Sirajulla Khan to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.38,82,656.27 (Thirty Eight Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Six and Twenty Seven paise only) along with interest, penal interest, costs etc. within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrowers, having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, in particular and the public, in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section 4 of section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 21st day of March, 2024.

The borrower, in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the HDFC Bank Ltd., for an amount of Rs.38,82,656.27 (Thirty Eight Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Six and Twenty Seven paise only) along with interest thereon and penal interest, charges, costs etc. from 13-Sep-2023 (date of notice). The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Secured Assets

All that Piece and Parcel of the Property Residential property bearing New BBMP No.18, ITI Layout, Bangalore BBMP Ward No.91, PID No 91-17-18, (earlier No.18 in ITI Employee's Housing Co-operative society limited layout at K G Byderahalli (Williams Town) Bangalore, Corporation Division No.46) Measuring East to West:45 Feet or 13.72 Meters and North to South:28 1/4Feet or 8.61 Meters totally Measuring 1271.5 sq. Feet and bounded on the: East By:Road, West By:Site No.17, North By:Road, South By:Site No.15

Date: 21.03.2024

Place: Bangalore

Sd/-
Authorised Officer,
For HDFC BANK Ltd.,

Regd.Office : HDFC Bank Limited, HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Clients Mr. R.M. Manjunath and Mrs. Rekha Manjunath, both residing at No. 20, Gangamma Nilaya, Ramakrishna Street, Seethadripuram, Bangalore 560 020, intend to purchase the Schedule Property mentioned hereunder from Mr. M. Lokesh, Son of Mr. M. M. Murugesappa, No. 141, Murugeshwara Layout, Old Airport Road, Mangalagiri, Hbl, Bangalore 560 017.

The Public is hereby informed that M. Lokesh represents that the Original Registered Sale Deed dated 29.06.2013, as Document No. M/S-1-00940-2013-14, C.D.No. M/S062, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Malleshwaram, Bangalore, pertaining to the Schedule Property's lot and same is not mortgaged or pledged to anyone. Any persons in possession of the aforesaid document may return the same to me. If any persons having any claim or objection for the said sale, may lodge their claim with the mentioned Advocate within 7 days of this publication with documentary proofs. If no objections or claims are received within the said period and the property mentioned in the Schedule hereunder is free from all encumbrances and my clients will proceed with the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property presently bearing Katha No. 203-1, PID No. 27-102-203-1, Old No. 197, later No.223, then Municipal No. 20, old Katha No. 20/3, First Floor building situated on eastern portion, measuring 600 Sq.ft with 1/2rd i.e., 220.78 Sq.ft. undivided share in the right, title and interest in the Land i.e., in the immovable property bearing Municipal/ Katha No. 20/3, Old No. 197, later No.223, then No. 20, Ramakrishna Street, 3rd Main Road, Seethadripuram, Bangalore, and bounded on the East by: Conservancy Lane, West by: 30' Common Wall between Western Portion of the Property No.203, North by: Water drain and South by: House of Ramalux.

K.R.GOPNATH, Advocate
Office at No. G-9, 10 & 11, Brigade Links, No. 54, First Main Road, Seethadripuram, Bangalore 560020.
Mob: 98451 09979.

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Stressed Assets Recovery Branch (05173)
No.11/90, 3rd Floor, Near Old Shivaji Talkies, Opp. Trust Well Hospital, J C Road, Bengaluru - 560 002. Phone: 080-2594367/25943663
Fax : (080) 25943664 Email:sbi.05173@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

Under Rule - 8 (1) (For Immovable property)

M/s.Villekt Led & Solar System Private Ltd., No. 0243, 11th Main, RBI Layout JP Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore - 560 078

WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the State Bank of India, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated: 01.06.2023 calling upon the borrower/Mortgagor: (1) Mr. Vishwanath Jetty W/o. Sri H. V. Nagaraja Jetty, No. 243, 11th Main, RBI Lay out, JP Nagar, 7th Phases, Bangalore - 560 078, (2) Smt. B N. Kawsalya W/o. Sri H. V. Nagaraja Jetty, No. 243, 11th Main, RBI Lay out, JP Nagar, 7th Phases, Bangalore - 560 078, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.1,68,28,554.70** (Rupees One Crore Sixty Eight Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Four and Paise Seventy only) as on 30.05.2023 and future interest at the contractual rate from 01.06.2023 together with incidental expenses, costs and charges thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers/mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on 21.03.2024.

The borrowers/mortgagor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of State Bank of India for an amount of **Rs.1,78,38,041/-** (Rupees One Crore Seventy Eight Lakhs Thirty Eight Thousand Forty One only) as on 20.03.2024 and future interest at contractual rate from 20.03.2024 together with incidental expenses thereon. The borrowers/mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

SCHEDULE "A" : All that piece and parcel of the site property ea bearing No. 243, situated at Kothanoor Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West (39.03/39.05) 2 feet and North to South 30.03 feet in the layout formed by RBI Staff Co-Operative Housing Society Ltd., and bounded by as follows : East : Road (11th Main Road.) West : Site No. 234, North : Site No. 244 & South : Site No. 242.

SCHEDULE "C" : All piece and parcel of 45% undivided right, title interest in the land of the Schedule "A" property and half of first floor facing road side, construction rights in the first floor terrace (2nd floor and 3rd Floor), Common rights in and out side stair case from Ground Floor to First Floor, inside stair case from first floor to second floor inside stair case from 2nd Floor to Thirty Floor passage in south east portion of the Schedule "A" Property and amenities like Drainage, water lines etc., belonging to Mr. Vishwanath N. Jetty.

Sd/- Authorised Officer
State Bank of India,
Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, Bengaluru

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 21.03.2024

Regd.Office : HDFC Bank Limited, HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013.

Demand Notice under Sub Section 2 of Section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "The Act")

We, HDFC BANK LTD hereinafter called as "Bank" do hereby issue notice as under. Please take notice that you the following had availed a loan details of which have been mentioned hereunder. Towards the said loan you have created security interest in favour of the Bank on the property described hereunder by way of mortgage by depositing title deed. After availing the said loan, contrary to the contractual obligations you have defaulted repayment of the loan amount together with interest and other charges. Hence, your loan account has been categorized as Non Performing Asset. Therefore, the Bank hereby recall the entire loan and call upon you to pay total amount outstanding in your loan account together with interest and all other charges thereon (details of which have been mentioned hereunder), within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of this Notice. Further, You are hereby put on notice that in terms of Sec.13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured asset detailed hereunder.

If you fail to repay the Bank the outstanding amount, the Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under Sec 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank's right to initiate such other or further legal proceedings, as it deems necessary under any applicable provisions of law.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower/ Co Borrowers	Description of property (Secured Assets)	A/c No & Amount	Date of NPA	Total Amount /Outstanding Amount
1.	1.Silk Factory, Shop No.1304, Kongadiyappa Road, Doddaballapur, Bangalore-561203	All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Khata No.1305/114 measuring 29.06'25.09 ft.situated at Doddaballapur CMC Kogadiyappa Main road DoddaballapurCMC ward No.02 and Bounded on:East By: Kogadiyappa Road, west By: Property Belongs to Vishal Kumar, North By : CMC Galli and South By :Property belongs to Vishwanath	A/c no: 50200036625715 Rs.50,00,000.00	17.09.2023	Rs.33,14,658.36 as on 17.01.2024
2.	Jyothendra Kumar, #700, Gandhi Nagar, 16th Division Doddaballapur, Bangalore-561203				
3.	Vishal Kumar J, #700,Gandhi Nagar,16th Division Doddaballapur Bangalore-561203				

Place : Bangalore
Date : 19.03.2024

Regd.Office : HDFC Bank Limited, HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013.

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
HDFC BANK LTD.,

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Office : "CHOLA CREST", C54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru. Vi.Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.
Branch Address : No.74/22, HV Arcade, 2nd Floor, Sy No. 751/2, Bagalur Road, Hosur - 635109.

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule - 8 (1)] (For Immovable Property) under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rules 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 08/09/2022 (Loan Account No.HE01HOR0000010021) calling upon the Borrowers 1. Pullappa Babu, Shop No.1, Janatha Colony, Hosur Road, Opp D Mart, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560099. 2. G.Shashikala W/o. Pullappa Babu, Shop No.1, Janatha Colony, Hosur Road, Opp D Mart, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560099. 3. Sri Devi Condiments, Shop No.1, Janatha Colony, Hosur Road, Opp D MART, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560099, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.39,56,321/- [Rupees Thirty Nine Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Three Hundred Twenty One Only]** as on 08.09.2022 with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers in particular and the public in general that the undersigned as per the Court Order Dated is 18.10.2023 passed by The Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru Rural District at Bangalore in Cr.Misc.1239/2023 has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under section 13(4), 13(12) of the said act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rules security interest (enforcement) rules, 2002 on this 19.03.2024.

Under section 13(8) of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale.

The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, for an amount of being **Rs.39,56,321/-** [Rupees Thirty Nine Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Three Hundred Twenty One Only] as on 08.09.2022 and interest and charges thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

(Property Covered under Regd. Gift Deed Doc. NP 6848/2016-17 dated 08.03.2017 of SRO Jigani (Basavanagudi)) All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.149, Old Katha No.165, property No.269/149, presently comes under Bommasandra Janatha Colony Ward No.09, Bommasandra Village, Attibbi Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, measuring East to West : 17 + 19/2 feet North to South : 40 feet, totally measuring 720 Sq. Ft., out of 1200 Sq. Ft., (Remaining Portion after acquisition by Metro), totally measuring 720 Sq. Ft. along with the commercial building built in it and bounded as follows: East by : House of Gurappa, West by : House of Muniyappa, North by : Road, South by : House of Yellappa in the midst above said land.

Date: 19.03.2024
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited.

Regd.Office : HDFC Bank Limited, HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013.

Demand Notice under Sub Section 2 of Section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "The Act")

We, HDFC BANK LTD hereinafter called as "Bank" do hereby issue notice as under. Please take notice that you the following had availed a loan details of which have been mentioned hereunder. Towards the said loan you have created security interest in favour of the Bank on the property described hereunder by way of mortgage by depositing title deed. After availing the said loan, contrary to the contractual obligations you have defaulted repayment of the loan amount together with interest and other charges. Hence, your loan account has been categorized as Non Performing Asset. Therefore, the Bank hereby recall the entire loan and call upon you to pay total amount outstanding in your loan account together with interest and all other charges thereon (details of which have been mentioned hereunder), within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of this Notice. Further, You are hereby put on notice that in terms of Sec.13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured asset detailed hereunder.

If you fail to repay the Bank the outstanding amount, the Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under Sec 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank's right to initiate such other or further legal proceedings, as it deems necessary under any applicable provisions of law.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower/ Co Borrowers	Description of property (Secured Assets)	A/c No & Amount	Date of NPA	Total Amount /Outstanding Amount
1.	1.Silk Factory, Shop No.1304, Kongadiyappa Road, Doddaballapur, Bangalore-561203	All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Khata No.1305/114 measuring 29.06'25.09 ft.situated at Doddaballapur CMC Kogadiyappa Main road DoddaballapurCMC ward No.02 and Bounded on:East By: Kogadiyappa Road, west By: Property Belongs to Vishal Kumar, North By : CMC Galli and South By :Property belongs to Vishwanath	A/c no: 50200036625715 Rs.50,00,000.00	17.09.2023	Rs.33,14,658.36 as on 17.01.2024
2.	Jyothendra Kumar, #700, Gandhi Nagar, 16th Division Doddaballapur, Bangalore-561203				
3.	Vishal Kumar J, #700,Gandhi Nagar,16th Division Doddaballapur Bangalore-561203				

Place : Bangalore
Date : 19.03.2024

Regd.Office : HDFC Bank Limited, HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013.

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
HDFC BANK LTD.,